

PARTNERSHIPS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

Place: Virtual Meeting-Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84803769553> or by phone 1-877-853-5257 (Meeting ID: 848 0376 9553 Password: 910490)

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Committee Present: Micah Bartelme, Bob Guenzel, Tyler Kinley

Committee Absent: None

Other DDA Present: Keith Orr

DDA Absent: Tom Crawford, Alex Dieck, Marie Klopf, Jessica A.S. Letaw, Molly McFarland, Darren McKinnon, Rishi Narayan, Phil Weiss

Staff: Susan Pollay, Jada Hahlbrock, Sara McCallum, Kelley Graves

Public: Members of the public were on the Zoom meeting but did not identify themselves.

Committee Review: Committee Chair Kinley said that the meeting focus was to discuss the Partnership Committee's purpose in anticipation of the DDA Annual Meeting. Ms. Pollay provided a brief history, saying it began as a Planning Committee overseeing the DDA's Renewal planning in 2000; upon approval of the amended DDA plan it morphed into the Partnerships Committee as a way to help the DDA remain in close contact with representatives of the taxing authorities whose tax revenues were included in the DDA's TIF. Another key role has been oversight of the DDA's Housing Fund, including recommending Housing grants. Although the full name includes "economic development", the Committee hasn't focused much on this. Mr. Kinley said early in the year he had proposed that the meetings focus on a topic of shared interest in addition to Partner updates. Initially this seemed to work well and was well received; more recently COVID-19 has made this format more complicated.

Mr. Guenzel emphasized the importance of continuing work on affordable housing. Mr. Bartelme asked if there were specific goals; many said the benefit came from connecting with Partners. It was suggested to extend a meeting invite to Partner board members, as well as the directors. Another ideas was to invite UM, SPARK and the Area Associations to future meetings. There was support to recommend to the Board to retain the committee, change the name of the committee to the "Housing and Economic Development Committee" and revise the description. Mr. Kinley and Mr. Bartelme have agreed to co-chair the committee.

Public Comment: Mr. Honeyman said he supported the committee's focus on strengthening the relationships with the taxing authorities. He said this an opportunity for more engagement and collaboration. He recommends joint initiatives through small grants for pilot programs with the taxing authorities. He would like to see more climate change initiatives brought forward by the DDA.

The next Partnerships Committee meeting (with Partners) is scheduled for July 15th at 9 am, which is one week later than usual due the Fourth of July holiday.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Pollay, Executive Director