

## **SAUK COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES**

West Square Building  
505 West Broadway  
Baraboo, WI 53913

June 16, 2025

Economic Development Committee Members Present: Smooth Detter, Marty Krueger, Bryant Hazard, Nathan Johson, Peter Kinsman and Robert Prosser. Timothy McCumber via Zoom.

Others Present: Melanie Platt-Gibson, Lisa Wilson, Erin Hauck, Aaron Christensen, Judy Gurgel and Jennifer Nelson.

At 4:00 pm, Chair Smooth Detter called the Economic Development Committee meeting to order and certified compliance with the open meetings law.

Adopt Agenda: Motion to adopt agenda by Prosser, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hazard. Motion Carried.

Adopt Minutes from the Previous Meeting: Motion by Hazard, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kinsman to approve the April 21, 2025 minutes. Motion Carried.

Public Comment: None

Communication: None

Economic Development Chair Report: None

Arts & Culture: Discussion was held on the Arts, Humanities & Historic Preservation (AHHP) grant. In 2026, the state of Wisconsin will be funding Sauk County at a \$9,500 level vs \$7, 100 level as in the past. While the total AHHP grant monies available in Sauk County has been at \$20,000, \$7,100 from the state and \$12,900 from Sauk County, the committee asked the Administrator to keep the Sauk portion in the upcoming 2026 proposed budget at the \$12,900, potentially bringing the 2026 grant monies available to \$22,400.

Discussion and possible action was taken on a \$500 Good Idea grant application from Pathways Home to hire a band for an upcoming fundraiser and a \$155.44 request from the Moely Prairie project for a sign identifying native grasses, flowers and additional vegetation. Following discussion, motion by Hazard, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Johnson to approve the grant request to Moely Prairie at \$155.44. Motion Carried. Then, on a motion by Hazard, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Prosser to fund the \$500 request from Pathways Home, the motion failed on one to six vote. Following this action, a motion by Krueger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by McCumber was made to not fund the \$500 Pathways Good Idea Grant. Motion carried.

The guidelines for the transitioning Good Idea Grant to the New Idea Grant were presented to the committee for final review. With a few minor adjustments, the document will be sent to the committee in the next 48 hours. The New Idea Grant application will then be built out with a fillable PDF and used moving forward.

Development Director's Report: Platt-Gibson provided the committee with her monthly report.

Brand Development: Platt-Gibson shared current brand marketing and monthly social media numbers. She also updated the committee on the Discover Mediaworks.

Economic Development: A brief update on Sauk County High Ground roundtables was also presented by Platt-Gibson.

Sauk County Development Corporation (SCDC): An opening discussion was held on the opportunity to connect SCDC with Sauk County's economic development efforts under a program like Thrive Jefferson. Platt-Gibson and Administrator Wilson walked the committee through how Thrive is organized and how it operates under the County's umbrella. The committee was interested in the idea and asked Thrive to present at the July 21 ED meeting.

August Meeting Location APT: The committee elected to move their August meeting to Thursday, August 14 at 4:30 pm to be held at the American Players Theatre, Spring Green to allow for a tour of the facility, to hear the latest economic impact numbers from APT on the Spring Green community and potentially purchase tickets to the evening's presentation of The Winter's Tale by William Shakespeare. Information will be confirmed and emailed to the committee for details.

Next Meeting Dates & Agenda Items: July 21, 2025 – 4:00 pm, West Square Building, 505 Broadway, Baraboo, WI 53913

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 5:46 pm by Prosser, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Johnson. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter Kinsman - Economic Development Committee Secretary