

SAUK COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

West Square Building
505 West Broadway
Baraboo, WI 53913

January 19, 2026

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

Others Present: Melanie Platt-Gibson and Andy Kurtz.

At 4:01 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 Hazard, 2nd by McCumber. Motion Carried.

Adopt Minutes from the Previous Meeting: Motion by Kinsman, 2nd by Hazard to approve the November 17, 2025 minutes. Motion Carried.

Public Comment: None

Communication: None

Economic Development Chair Communication: None

Arts & Culture: The Arts, Humanities & Historic Preservation (AHHP) grant application window closed January 9, 2026. Eleven applications were received in total – three in the Historic Preservation area and 8 in the Arts & Humanities area. The AHHP grant team is pleased with the response.

Panelists are currently being vetted and it is recommended that a Panel Leader from the Economic Development Committee be named to lead and monitor the panelists during their review scheduled for Monday, February 2 at 9 am, Room 213, West Square Building. Motion by McCumber, 2nd by Krueger to have ED Committee Chair Detter lead the panel, with Supervisor Hazard also participating based on his AHHP panel experience. Motion Carried.

The committee reviewed the final reports from 2025 AHHP grant recipients Also Leopold, Friends of Devil's Lake, Little Eagle Arts and the Summit Players. No New Idea Grants were received, and no invoices were presented for payment. The committee was reminded the 2026 budget is \$20,000 for AHHP grants and \$5,000 for New Idea Grants. Funds remaining from 2025 were not carried forward according to previous financial practice.

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: Platt-Gibson updated the committee on economic development including progress with the SCDC/CEDA project to create a public/private partnership. The committee heard from Andy Kurtz, Chair of the Sauk County Development Corp. Board who echoed the progress being made. The committee was made aware that Sauk County has received the final Broadband Equity (BEAD) grant payment of \$12,060 and was provided current details on the Baraboo Sauk County Campus redevelopment plan project.

Committee Updates / Reports: The committee members provided updates from the various committees, commissions and boards on which they participate that intersect with the County's Economic Development efforts including the Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission; Madison Region Economic Partnership Board; Sauk County Development Corporation; PACE Committee; Pink Lady Rail Transit Commission and the Tri County Airport Commission.

The committee asked to replace the Madison Region Economic Partnership update with the Workforce Development Board of South-Central Wisconsin and to eliminate The Pink Lady Rail Transit as it is generally redundant and the materials are covered under the report from the Wisconsin River Rail Transit Commission. The changes will begin as part of the February Economic Development Committee meeting.

Next Meeting Dates & Agenda Items: February 16, 2026 – 4:00 pm, Sauk County West Square Building, Room 213, 505 Broadway, Baraboo, WI 53913. The committee also asked to take the meeting back out to businesses with suggestions including Carr Valley Cheese and back to more Amish businesses. The committee suggested summer dates for the business visits. It was also discussed that Supervisor Prosser and Supervisor McCumber will need Zoom links for the February meeting.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 4:58 pm by Krueger, 2nd by McCumber. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Kinsman', written over a horizontal line.

Peter Kinsman - Economic Development Committee Secretary