



MINUTES

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

The Robbinsdale Economic Development Authority (REDA) meeting was called to order by President Greenberg at 7:00 p.m.

MICROPHONE CHECK

Complete

ROLL CALL

Present: Blackedge, Sutton, Parisian, Wagner, Greenberg.

Absent: None

Staff: Tim Sandvik, Executive Director, Heather Rand, Community Development Director

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Feb 11, 2025 EDA Meeting Minutes

Member Parisian MOVED, seconded by Blackedge to approve regular meeting minutes of Feb 11, 2025 EDA Meeting Minutes. The vote was 5-0 and the motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. None

OLD BUSINESS

- A. None

NEW BUSINESS

OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Blackedge to approve Voucher Requests Pending Approval for Disbursement. The vote was 5-0 and the motion carried.

INFORMATION ONLY

- A. Staff Updates

Community Director Heather Rand gave EDA a briefing on Elevate Hennepin, a small business technical assistance program supported by the community and Hennepin County, which has assisted 12 businesses this year. The amount of counseling needed varies, with some businesses requiring just a few hours and others needing more. While the service isn't being fully utilized yet, efforts will continue to promote it, with plans for a more detailed update and success stories from Elevate staff by early summer.

Commissioner Wagner asked if the twelve businesses are Robbinsdale businesses or are they Hennepin businesses?

Mrs. Rand highlighted that many Robbinsdale businesses are small, often with residential addresses. Through the Elevate Hennepin website, they can access free, confidential counseling and resources for business planning, marketing, financing, and more. She's glad people are using the service.

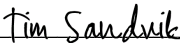
Mrs Rand stated there are two major real estate projects that are progressing slowly. The Elim Lutheran Church development team is still planning a market-rate apartment building but paused in January due to unstable financial markets. Similarly, the mixed-use project at 4200 West Broadway is moving forward with property acquisitions, and the development team plans to provide an update at the April EDA meeting. Both projects are ongoing but facing some uncertainty.

Mrs. Rand stated she attended a local real estate conference and attendees acknowledged uncertainties but emphasized strong demand. They suggested it's a good year to focus on planning so that when conditions improve, projects can move forward quickly.

Mrs. Rands stated US Bank has not provided an update in the past couple of months. The Blue Line transit team has provided an update on the development of their project. In the meantime, staff are working on identifying commercially zoned properties with that appear to be underutilized or "dark", i.e., no indication of business activity. Staff are inventorying these sites and reaching out to property owners to inquire about their plans and explore marketing opportunities to activate. Heather has also received inquiries from real estate agents, but currently lacks available sites to provide, so having inventory information is helpful.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Wagner MOVED, seconded by Wagner to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 PM. The vote was 5-0 and the motion carried.



Tim Sandvik, Executive Director

Signed by:


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Jason Greenberg, President