

MINUTES
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
THURSDAY JULY 27, 2023
WOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM #115, WISCONSIN RAPIDS WI

Members Present: Bill Leichtnam, Jake Hahn, Dave LaFontaine, Laura Valenstein and Tom Buttke

Members Excused: Carmen Good

Staff Present:

Planning & Zoning Staff: Jason Grueneberg and Victoria Wilson

Others Present for all or part of meeting (in person or via WebEx): Stacy Kivi, Denise Sonnemann, Chad Schooley, Tyler Smazal, Tom Turchi, Vicki Schnitzler, Steve Barg, Kris Coleman, Jeff Gaier, Jeremy Sickler, Tyler Freund, Bill Urban, Lee Garrels, Tom Loucks, Tami Hahn, Mary Jo Wheeler, Eric Hummel, Amber France, Justin Casperson, Kristie Egge, Jill Porter, Kelly Borchardt, Kyle Kearns, Angela O'Day, Tara Draeger, Kaelie Gomez, Dane Anderson, Andrea Jackan, and Mark Bowie.

1. **Call meeting to order** - Chairperson Leichtnam called the CEED Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Declaration of Quorum** - Chairperson Leichtnam declared a quorum
3. ****Process discussion – “presentation/questions & discussion/award decision”** - Chair Leichtnam advised that there will be no presentation; rather the grant application will be the presentation unless the committee members have questions. Chair Leichtnam further asked the committee what process they would like to use for review of grants. Committee consensus was to use the same process as last year giving each grant requestee a decision at the time their grant is reviewed.
4. ****Chair’s remarks to presenters regarding “process”** - Chair Leichtnam advised that each grant will be allowed approximately seven minutes for review.
5. ****Presentation of grant requests**

Economic Development grant applications: (See chart of applications with corresponding numbers)

#1-Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce-General ED Funding: The committee decided to approve this request along with the grant request of #4 from Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the same time. Stacy Kivi and Denise Sonnemann answered questions from the committee.

Motion by Buttke to fund both grant requests for \$25,000 of the \$25,000 requested. Second by Hahn. Motion carried unanimously.
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#2-Wood County Parks & Forestry-Site Plan for South Wood County Park: Chad Schooley gave an overview of this project and answered committee questions.

Motion by Hahn to fund grant request for \$15,000 of the \$15,000 requested. Second by LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

#3-War Room Museum & World History- Operation Costs: Tyler Smazal answered questions from the committee.

Motion by Hahn to deny the grant request for \$37,600 of the \$37,600 requested. Second by LaFontaine. Motion carried unanimously.

#4-Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry-General ED Funding: Request was approved by the committee along with Heart of Wisconsin Chamber in item #1.

#5- City of Marshfield-Crosswalk: Tom Turchi answered questions from the committee.

Motion by Buttke to fund the grant request for \$15,850 of the \$15,850 requested. Second by Hahn. LaFontaine amended the motion to fund the grant request for \$10,000. Second by Leichtnam. Amended motion carried unanimously.

#6- City of Marshfield-Historic District Signs & Brochure Holders: Vicki Schnitzler, Steve Barg and Kris Coleman answered questions from the committee.

Motion by Buttke to fund the grant request for \$13,321 of the \$13,321 requested. Second by Valenstein. LaFontaine amended the motion to fund the grant request for \$10,000. Second by Buttke. Motion passed 3-2 with Leichtnam and Hahn voting no.

#7-Marshfield Municipal Airport-General ED Funding: Jeff Gaier was present to answer questions. No questions.

Motion by LaFontaine to fund the grant request for \$15,000 of the \$15,000 requested. Second by Buttke. Motion carried unanimously.

#8-South Wood County Airport Commission-General ED Funding: Jeremy Sickler answered questions from the committee.

Motion by Buttke to fund the grant request for \$15,000 of the \$15,000 requested. Second by Hahn. Motion carried unanimously.

#9- Village of Auburndale-Park Improvements: Tyler Freund answered questions from the committee.

Motion by LaFontaine to fund the grant request for \$25,000 of the \$50,000 requested. Second by Leichtnam. Hahn amended the motion to fund \$50,000 of the grant request. Second by Buttke. Motion passed 4-1 with Leichtnam voting no.

#10-Pittsville Little League-Little League and Light Up the Pit Committee: Bill Urban and Lee Garrels answered questions from the committee.

Motion by LaFontaine to fund the grant request for \$60,000 of the \$120,000 requested. Second by Leichtnam. Hahn amended the motion to fund \$100,000 of the grant request. Second by Buttke. Motion passed 3-2 with Leichtnam and Valenstein voting no.

#11- City of Marshfield Communications Department-Video and Audio Equipment: Tom Loucks answered questions from the committee.

Motion by Buttke to fund the grant request for \$10,000 of the \$10,000 requested. Second by Valenstein. Motion carried unanimously.

#12- City of Marshfield Communications Department-Survey Software: Tom Loucks answered questions from the committee.

Motion by Valenstein to deny the grant request for \$10,000 of the \$10,000 requested. Second by LaFontaine. Buttke amended the motion to fund \$10,000 of the grant request. Motion died for lack of a second. Original motion passed 4-1 with Buttke voting no.

#13- City of Pittsville-Flushable toilets: Tami Hahn answered questions from the committee.

Motion by Hahn to deny the grant request for \$54,000 of the \$54,000 requested. Second by Buttke. Motion carried unanimously.

#14- City of Pittsville-Incubator: Tami Hahn answered Questions from the committee.

Motion by Hahn to fund the grant request for \$52,500 of the \$52,500 requested. Second by Buttke. Motion carried unanimously.

#15-Central WI State Fair-Electrical Upgrades: Mary Jo Wheeler and Steve Barg answered questions from the committee.

Motion by Hahn to deny the grant request for \$100,000 of the \$100,000 requested. Second by Valenstein. Motion carried unanimously.

#16-Nepco Lake District-Outdoor Recreation Opportunities: Eric Hummel answered questions from the committee.

Motion by LaFontaine to fund the grant request for \$30,000 of the \$60,000 requested. Second by Leichtnam. Motion failed 2-3 with Hahn, Buttke and Valenstein voting no.

#17-Town of Grand Rapids-Municipal Building Sign: Amber France was available to answer questions from the committee. No questions.

Motion by LaFontaine to deny the grant request for \$32,800 of the \$32,800 requested. Second by Buttke. Motion passed 4-1 with Leichtnam voting no.

#18-Marshfield Parks & Recreation-Wenzel Plaza Restrooms: Justin Casperson answered questions from the committee.

Motion by LaFontaine to fund the grant request for \$12,500 of the \$50,000 requested. Second by Valenstein. Buttke amended the motion to fund the grant for \$50,000. Motion died for lack of a second. Original motion passed 4-1 with Hahn voting no.

#19-Marshfield Parks & Recreation-Braem Park pickleball courts: Justin Casperson answered questions from the committee.

#20-Marshfield Parks & Recreation-Strohman Park Redevelopment: Justin Casperson answered questions from the committee.

Motion by Valenstein to vote on #19 & #20 at the same time and fund the grant request for \$50,000 of the \$50,000 requested (#19) and to deny the grant for \$25,000 of the \$25,000 requested (#20). Second by Hahn. Motion carried unanimously.

#21-Wood County Health Department-Bike Share Program: Kristie Egge answered questions from the committee.

Motion by Hahn to fund the grant request for \$5,000 of the \$5,000 requested. Second by Leichtnam. Motion carried unanimously.

#22-Town of Saratoga-Marquee Sign/LED Message Board: No one from the Town of Saratoga was available to answer questions from the committee.

Motion by Leichtnam to fund the grant request for \$15,000 of the \$30,000 requested. Motion died for lack of a second. Motion by Valenstein to deny the grant request of \$30,000. Second by Buttke. Motion passed 4-1 with Leichtnam voting no.

#23-Everett Roehl Marshfield Public Library-Family/tech furnishing and improvements: Jill Porter answered questions from the committee.

Motion by Valenstein to fund the grant request for \$15,000 of the \$15,000 requested. Second by Buttke. Motion passed 3-2 with Hahn and LaFontaine voting no.

#24-Childcaring-Childcare-Start Up Assistance: Kelly Borchardt answered questions from the committee.

Motion by Valenstein to fund the grant request for \$40,300 of the \$40,300 requested. Second by Buttke. Motion failed 1-4 with Hahn, Leichtnam, LaFontaine and Buttke voting no.

LaFontaine made a motion to refer this grant request to the ARPA committee. Second by Hahn. Motion carried unanimously.

#25-City of Wisconsin Rapids-Waterfront Plan: Kyle Kearns answered questions from the committee.

Motion by LaFontaine to fund the grant request for \$25,000 of the \$25,000 requested. Second by Valenstein. Motion carried unanimously.

#26-Rise Up Central WI-Murals: Angela O'Day & Tara Draeger answered questions from the committee.

Motion by Valenstein to deny the grant request for \$25,000 of the \$25,000 requested. Second by Hahn. Motion carried unanimously.

#27-Main Street Marshfield-Downtown Welcome Back: Kaelie Gomez answered questions from the committee.

Motion by Buttke to fund the grant request for \$21,100 of the \$21,100 requested. Second by LaFontaine. Motion passed 4-1 with Leichtnam voting no.

#28-Mill Creek Youth Foundation Corporation-Youth Complex: Dane Anderson answered questions from the committee.

Motion by Buttke to fund the grant request for \$25,000 of the \$100,000 requested. Second by LaFontaine. Motion passed 4-1 with Leichtnam voting no.

#29-North Wood County Historical Society-Upham Mansion Updates: Andrea Jackan and Kris Coleman answered questions from the committee.

Motion by LaFontaine to fund the grant request for \$75,000 of the \$113,255.71 requested. Second by Buttke. Motion fails 2-3 with Valenstein, Hahn and Leichtnam voting no. Motion by LaFontaine to fund \$50,000 of the \$113,255.71 requested. Second by Buttke. Motion passed 4-1 with Leichtnam voting no.

#30-C2 Makerspace-Advertising/Interns: Mark Bowie answered questions from the committee.

Motion by Valenstein to fund the grant request for \$5,000 of the \$35,000 requested. Second by Hahn. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Lunch 11:30a.m. to 12:00p.m.** With consensus from the committee, all grants were reviewed before lunch.
7. ****Continued grant requests –** All grants were reviewed before lunch.
8. ****Consider need for additional “special” meeting –** not needed. Chair Leichtnam requested an item be added to the next CEED Meeting agenda to “Define Economic Development and where we want to go”.
9. **Adjourn.** Motion by Buttke, second by Hahn to adjourn the meeting at 12:24 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes by Victoria Wilson, Planning & Zoning, and in draft form until approved at next meeting.

