



**MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
HJEMKOMST CENTER AUDITORIUM - 202 1ST AVE N
June 1, 2026 - 11:45 AM**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Roll call of the members was made as follows:

Present (8): Siham Amedy, Amy Anderson, Evan Balko, Derrick LaPoint, Emily Moore, Kim Schlotfeldt, Rob Sobolik, Deb White

Absent (2): Sheri Larson, Jason Ness

Chair LaPoint called the meeting to order and attendance was noted.

2. Agenda Amendments

There were no agenda amendments.

3. Approval of Minutes

A. May 4, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve made by Deb White and seconded by Emily Moore.

For 8: Siham Amedy, Amy Anderson, Evan Balko, Derrick LaPoint, Emily Moore, Kim Schlotfeldt, Rob Sobolik, Deb White

Against 0: None

Abstain/Recuse 0: None

Motion Passed

4. Citizens To Be Heard

Stacia Sytsma, Executive Director of the Greater Moorhead Business Association, introduced an initiative to support businesses affected by Center Avenue construction, and requested promotion on social media. She noted the event's value in assisting the business community during this challenging period.

5. Commissioners' Report

Commissioner LaPoint reported that he attended The Chamber's "DC Fly In" event beginning on May 18. Issues facing the region were among the items discussed with the Minnesota delegation in DC.

6. Presentations

A. Spark Center for Entrepreneurship — Laura Caroon, The Luminarie

Laura Caroon provided an overview of programming since the April opening, highlighting classes, trainings, events, and tours for local entrepreneurs, and noting upcoming summer events and partner activities.

B. Experiences & Placemaking — Steve French, Recreation Events Specialist, & Joe Burgum, Folkways

Joe Burgum and Steve French updated the EDA on Moorhead's placemaking and experience-marketing initiatives, highlighting efforts to enhance quality of life by

creating engaging public spaces. Their presentation focused on advancing goals from the Downtown Moorhead Master Plan and included an overview of upcoming events and their positive economic impacts.

7. Business Items

A. Branding Downtown — Lisa Bode, Governmental Affairs Director

Lisa Bode provided an update on progress within the downtown redevelopment project and introduced branding concepts for the district. She shared the Governmental Affairs team's recommended name and sample graphic, proposing adoption of "The Loop District" to the EDA.

Recommended Motion: To name and brand the Downtown Center District (as identified in the Downtown Master Plan) as "The Loop District" for marketing and communications purposes.

Motion to Approve made by Kim Schlotfeldt and seconded by Amy Anderson.

For 8: Siham Amedy, Amy Anderson, Evan Balko, Derrick LaPoint, Emily Moore, Kim Schlotfeldt, Rob Sobolik, Deb White

Against 0: None

Abstain/Recuse 0: None

Motion Passed

B. Economic Development Report

Matt Leiseth, DMI/Economic Development, provided an overview of the Economic Development report, as found in packet materials.

8. Information/Update

A. Spark Center for Entrepreneurship - [Link to Spark Center](#)

B. Downtown Moorhead Vision - [Link to More to Moorhead Website](#)

C. Building & Housing Updates - [Sign up for e-Notifications](#)

D. 11th Street Underpass Project - [Link to MnDOT Project Details & Updates](#)

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.