

**MINUTES
VISION FUND COMMITTEE
March 20, 2018**

The Vision Fund Committee met in special session at 11:00 a.m. on March 20, 2018 in the Tom Baker Meeting Room in the City/County Building. Present were: Bill Daniel, Steve Marquardt, Randy Hansen, and Brian Eiseman. Kevin Strege was absent. Also present were: Brian Ritter, Nathan Schneider, Charlie Whitman, Jason Hammes, Jason Tomanek and Keith Hunke.

MINUTES

Chairman Eiseman called for consideration of the minutes of the meeting of January 5, 2018.

MOTION - It was moved by Mr. Hansen and seconded by Commissioner Marquardt that the minutes of the January 5, 2018 meeting be approved. All present voted in favor of this motion.

CONSIDERATION – Request from Bismarck Development Association

Chairman Eiseman announced the next item of business as consideration of the request from Bismarck Mandan Development Association. Brian Ritter, President/CEO of the Bismarck Mandan Development Association (BMDA), briefed the Vision Fund committee members on the request for a \$200,000 operating grant. Mr. Ritter shared information about the BMDA's past years' activities including the continuation of stable funding from the public sector entities that support the BMDA and increased funding from the private sector entities that provide financial support to the BMDA. Mr. Ritter also provided an overview of various activities that the BMDA was involved in and their relationship to the organizations 2017-2019 strategic plan including the support of the entrepreneurial community, business retention and expansion efforts, the job shadowing program, the talent attraction program and the on-going efforts of organizational excellence. Discussion continued with the Vision Fund Committee members and several questions were asked. Mr. Daniel asked about the status of the merger between the BMDA and the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Ritter said no decisions have been made, discussion between both organizations are on-going, each has involved members in subcommittee discussions about restructured governance, funding, and use of existing resources more effectively. Tentative timeline of a decision is May/June with an effective date of January 1, 2019. Mr. Hansen reviewed the BMDA's proposed budget for 2018 and questioned the difference between the new jobs training line items. Mr. Ritter said this is the funding for the workforce grant program that supports the retention and relocation of workers. The BMDA passes through the grant dollars

to qualified business and retains a 4% administration fee which accounts for the difference shown in the 2018 budget. Mr. Hansen also asked about the past reduction in financial support from the counties and whether or not that will occur again. Mr. Ritter said they are expecting the same level of support from the counties as they are from the cities but final determinations haven't been made.

MOTION - It was moved by Mr. Hansen and seconded by Mr. Daniel to consider the application of the BMDA as a full application and that it recommend the full application to the Board of City Commissioners for their consideration. All present voted in favor of this motion.

OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business to come before the group at this time the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Reported by:

Keith J. Hunke
City Administrator