

**BISMARCK RENAISSANCE ZONE AUTHORITY
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
June 29, 2023**

The Bismarck Renaissance Zone Authority met for a special meeting on June 29, 2023 in the Tom Baker Meeting Room in the City-County Office Building at 221 North 5th Street and remotely via the online platform Zoom. Chair Christianson presided and was present in the Tom Baker Meeting Room.

Authority members present were Jim Christianson, Kirsten Dvorak, Joe Fink, Dustin Gawrylow, Nancy Guy and Curt Walth.

Authority member Greg Zenker was absent.

Design Advisors David Witham and Eric Hoffer were present.

Staff members present were Ben Ehreth (Director of Community Development), Sarah Fricke (Senior Administrative Assistant), Isak Johnson (Planner), and Daniel Nairn (Senior Planner).

Guest present was Dawn Kopp (The Downtowners and Artist).

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Christianson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed new member, Nancy Guy, and all who were present.

MINUTES

The minutes of the May 11, 2023 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Fink and seconded by Ms. Dvorak to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2023 meeting. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with members Dvorak, Fink, Gawrylow, Guy, Walth and Chair Christianson voting in favor.

DISCUSSION ABOUT RENAISSANCE ZONE PROGRAM RENEWAL

Mr. Nairn gave an update about the parameters of the Renaissance Zone reauthorization process and noted that Authority members requested this special meeting to assure that no deadlines were missed in requesting reauthorization utilizing the new option granted in HB1266. Mr. Nairn reiterated the outlined history and items contained in the memo to Chair Christianson dated June 27, 2023, included in the agenda packet. He noted the Bismarck City Commission's approval to pursue reauthorization at the various boards and the Chamber of Commerce's suggestion to see each board twice for answering questions and then for consideration. He stated that the soonest possible time Authority members could approve reauthorization would be at September's regular meeting if all boards approve at requested times.

Mr. Nairn shared a draft presentation for members to consider showing at board appearances.

The number of board appearances and order of board appearances were discussed.

Mr. Nairn's presentation centered on Bismarck's program status, geography, economic advantages with specific examples showing increased tax revenue through increased property valuations which would then be divided among the appropriate political subdivisions. There was much discussion by members about various aspects of the draft presentation and how other state municipalities govern their Renaissance Zone programs.

There was a consensus to meet with Burleigh County Commission first, changing the previously proposed order of appearances. Mr. Nairn confirmed that the July 10, 2023 meeting with the School Board will be pushed to a date later than the Authority's meeting at the County Commission meeting. Members agreed.

There was discussion about the Bismarck Renaissance Zone Development Plan and how the new State Law, HB1266, is less restrictive in allowing tax incentives eight years.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Gawrylow and seconded by Mr. Walth to approve an amendment to the Development Plan that property and income tax incentives may not exceed five years. The motion passed unanimously with members Dvorak, Fink, Gawrylow, Guy, Walth and Chair Christianson voting in favor.

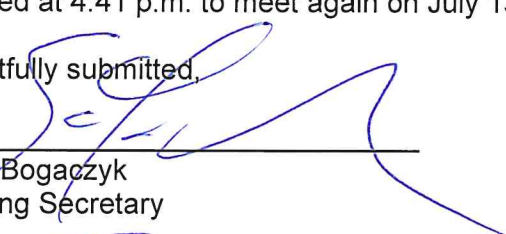
OTHER BUSINESS

There was discussion about various ways to include members from each stakeholder board to the Renaissance Zone Authority. There was a consensus that details can be discussed at a future meeting. Mr. Nairn stated that an amendment to City Ordinance would have to be approved by City Commission if Authority members were to continue discussion.

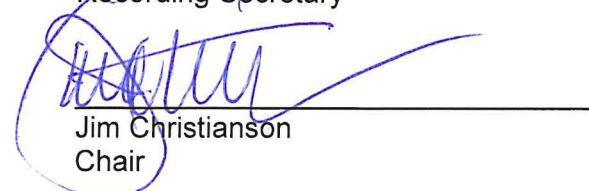
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting of the Bismarck Renaissance Zone Authority adjourned at 4:41 p.m. to meet again on July 13, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Bogaczyk
Recording Secretary



Jim Christianson
Chair