

**BISMARCK RENAISSANCE ZONE AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
December 12, 2024**

The Bismarck Renaissance Zone Authority met on December 12, 2024, 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.

Authority members present were Jim Christianson, Kirsten Dvorak, Joe Fink (Via Zoom), Dustin Gawrylow and Nancy Guy.

Authority members Greg Zenker and Wayne Munson were not present.

Design Advisor David Witham was present.

Design Advisor Eric Hoffer was not present.

Staff members present were Sandra Bogaczyk (Office Assistant II), Ben Ehreth (Director of Community Development), and Isak Johnson (Planner) and Daniel Nairn (Planning Manager).

Guest present was Kate Herzog (Downtowners).

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Christianson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed guests present.

MINUTES

The minutes of the August 8, 2024 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made by Ms. Dvorak and seconded by Ms. Guy to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2024 meeting. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote with members Dvorak, Fink, Gawrylow, Guy and Chair Christianson voting in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS

UPDATE ON RENAISSANCE ZONE PROGRAM EXTENSION

Mr. Johnson stated that all relevant political entities have supported the request for a five-year extension of the Renaissance Zone, to begin January 4, 2025.

Ms. Dvorak asked if the various political entities have chosen representatives to fill the new Renaissance Zone board. Mr. Johnson explained that five members are appointed by the Bismarck City Commission with an additional seat per political subdivision including City Commission, Burleigh County Commission, Bismarck Public Schools and Bismarck Parks and Recreation District, creating a nine-member board starting in January. Mr. Johnson stated that County Commissioner Munson resigned so that there are not two County representatives for one political entity, as he was appointed previously in an at-large City Seat in order to meet the letter of intent between the City Commission and the Burleigh County Commission while changes to the Development Plan were made. Authority members Guy and Gawrylow have

expiring seats. Ms. Guy has reapplied for her seat while Mr. Gawrylow has not. Formal recommendations will be made at the upcoming City Commission meeting.

UPDATE ON PROVIDENT BUILDING RENOVATION

Mr. Johnson explained to members that the construction occurring at the Provident building is all interior work other than some possible one-to-one replacement renovation occurring on the exterior, eliminating the need for a Downtown Design Review project for members' review.

REPORT FROM DOWNTOWNERS

Ms. Herzog asked if the Event Center is within the Downtown Zoning District. Mr. Johnson affirmed that it is.

Ms. Herzog summarized activities regarding the Event Center and announced her new position as a Renaissance Zone Authority member representing the Park Board and announced that the Downtowners will be represented by other members instead of her, regarding Renaissance Zone Authority activities.

Ms. Herzog stated that she anticipates parking concerns will be an significant topic in the new year.

Chair Christianson mentioned that the recently published Chamber of Commerce Connection article, highlighting the history and current status of the Renaissance Zone, is an interesting and important source of information.

There was discussion about interest rates, business buy-outs and potential projects.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Christianson thanked Mr. Gawrylow for his service and dedication to the Renaissance Zone Authority for the past five years and noted that he played an instrumental part in the board's success.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting of the Bismarck Renaissance Zone Authority adjourned at 4:16 p.m. to meet again on January 9, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Bogaczyk - Recording Secretary

Jim Christianson - Chair