

**City of Columbus  
Economic Development Authority (EDA) Special Meeting  
Alternative Meeting Format  
MN Statute, Section 13D.021  
06.12.2025**

The June 12, 2025 Special Meeting of the City of Columbus Economic Development Authority was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by President Ron Hanegraaf at City Hall.

Present were Commissioners Janet Hegland, Judy Huntosh, Karen Fleming, Jennifer Lattin, Rob Busch, Scott Wendell, and Ron Hanegraaf, Executive Director Jack Davis and Secretary Aaron Berg.

**1. Call to Order – 5:31 p.m.**

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion by Hegland to approve the agenda as written. Seconded by Huntosh.**

**Roll call vote: Fleming – aye; Lattin – aye; Wendell – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Huntosh – aye; Hanegraaf – aye. Motion carries.**

**4. Approval of April 15, 2025 EDA Meeting Minutes**

Secretary Berg explained that the draft minutes had been updated based on some commissioner input, and noted:

- Edits were based on staff review of the meeting video and transcript.
- One suggested change regarding emails versus mailings was not made, as it did not reflect what was actually said.
- The inclusion of a direct quote in line 114 was retained despite not being typical for minutes.
- Commissioner Fleming’s name was still misspelled in multiple locations.

The Commission held an extensive discussion on the minute drafting process, individual commissioner interests, the use of AI tools and concerns about editing accuracy.

**Motion by Hegland to accept the amended April 15, 2025 minutes with correction to Commissioner Fleming’s name. Seconded by Lattin.**

**Roll call vote: Fleming – aye; Lattin – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – abstain; Huntosh – aye; Hanegraaf – aye; Wendell abstained due to a change in meeting dates and not making the meeting. Motion carries .**

## **5. EDA Restructuring**

Secretary Berg outlined the process for modifying the EDA's structure per MN Statutes and Resolution No. 10-13. Staff recommended restructuring the Board from seven to five members, composed of two Council Members and three at-large members as was discussed a previous EDA and Council Meetings.

Procedurally a formal letter/ petition to the City Council was drafted for EDA Commissioners to review and approve.

Discussions focused on future citizen representation, clarity of the title of “public at-large”, the authority to amend EDA By-Laws and the importance of maintaining flexibility to fill volunteer commissioner seats.

**Motion by Wendell to approve and forward the restructuring petition to the City Council recommending the change of the EDA from a 7-member board to a 5-member board. Seconded by Hegland.**

**Roll call vote: Huntosh – aye; Busch – aye; Hegland – aye; Wendell – aye; Lattin – aye; Fleming – aye; Hanegraaf – aye. Motion carries.**

## **6. Financial Report**

Executive Director Davis reviewed the 2024 EDA financials and preliminary 2025 budget details. Commissioners requested monthly reports and clarification on the use of Tourism Tax Revenue. Davis will investigate and provide itemized 2025 updates post-audit.

## **7. Business Activity Report**

Development updates:

- MTW Truck Wash requested a reduction in SAC units and costs from the MET Council which was approved. Construction anticipated late July.
- EquipmentShare.com, an equipment rental company applied for and was granted a CUP to begin operations in the city at 14045 Lake Drive.
- Electric Go-Kart project canceled; developer seeking alternative uses.
- Minnesota Veterinary Neurology, 15186 West Freeway Drive, remains under construction.

- MWF Properties exploring market-rate apartments on a 5.5 Acre City Owner parcel on North Hornsby St. They continue to engage staff in conversations.
- NW Quad Final Plat has been approved which enables its future rezoning and sale.

## **8. Other Business**

Commissioner Hegland raised the status of a mission statement draft circulated in March. Berg will follow up and place on a future agenda if it has not already approved.

Commissioner Huntosh asked about the Fall Columbiz event scheduled for October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. Additionally, Huntosh requested that future meeting agendas have a Old Business section added for reference.

Commissioner Hegland requested an update on the City's progress on new banners. Berg advised the city was presented with a first draft version printed banner 2 weeks prior and authorization the printing. Although there was not a defined delivery date, it was estimated the additional banners would be delivered anywhere between 2 and 4 weeks after authorization. Berg estimated that by July 1<sup>st</sup> the public should be seeing new banners on polls on Kettle River Boulevard and north Hornsby Street.

Commissioner Lattin noted that she had discussions with Running Aces regarding Fall Fest and the showing of a drive-in movie in their parking lot. There was conversation regarding who would be doing promotion and if there were EDA dollars available to help with promotion. This was recommended to be placed on the August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 EDA Meeting Agenda.

## **9. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn by Huntosh. Seconded by Fleming.**

**Roll call vote: Fleming – aye; Lattin – aye; Wendell – aye; Hegland – aye; Busch – aye; Huntosh – aye; Hanegraaf – aye. Motion carries.**

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:56 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron Berg, Secretary

**Disclaimer:**

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