



# City Council - EDA - DTC

## Joint Workshop

~ Minutes ~

1408 Lake Street South  
Forest Lake, MN 55025  
[www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us](http://www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us)

Karin Derauf, Deputy City Clerk

Monday, April 18, 2022

6:30 PM

City Center – Community Room 2<sup>nd</sup> Level

### 1. Call to Order

### 2. Roll Call

| Attendee Name  | Title            | Status  | Arrived |
|----------------|------------------|---------|---------|
| Mara Bain      | Mayor            | Present |         |
| Sam Husnik     | Councilmember    | Absent  |         |
| Kathy Bystrom  | Councilmember    | Absent  |         |
| Kelly Monson   | Councilmember    | Present |         |
| Hanna Valento  | Councilmember    | Present |         |
| Blake Roberts  | EDA Commissioner | Present |         |
| Judy Huntosh   | EDA Commissioner | Present |         |
| Jenny Lorge    | EDA Commissioner | Present |         |
| Leif Erickson  | EDA Commissioner | Present |         |
| Mark Finnemann | EDA Commissioner | Present |         |

### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

### 4. Downtown Plan - HKGI

Bruce Chamberlain from HKGI introduced the concept of Activation in the Downtown Directives and noted that the previous directive was to provide additional prominent events and expansion of the routine and regular downtown happenings. He commented on the value of Activation and Place Making noting that it creates a critical mass of energy, supports the retail and restaurant businesses, provides a feeling of safety and security in the area, and draws people to work and live in near the downtown area.

Bruce discussed Activation methods and tools from seasonal event perspective, a day-to-day living perspective, and curated art installations in the Downtown area. He commented that seasonal activation can include already existing events such as Arts in The Park, Farmer’s Market, and July 4<sup>th</sup> Events, and the addition of events such as open skating and hockey games during the winter. He also commented on day-to-day activities such as sidewalk sales, food tastings, trivia nights, and other business engagement activities in the Downtown area. He also provide ideas for curated art installations such as photo-worthy locations, murals, word walls, and storefront window displays.

Bruce gave activation plan recommendations that included launching an activation program by establishing an annual activation budget and set fundraising goals, Establishing a public arts curator and form an activation committee to coordinate partners and champions, and by continually testing new activation endeavors.



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Susan Young discussed specific events such as a snowmobile race and the Rotary Plunge as winter activities and also to have some type of large summer activity. Jenny Lorge asked about funding for a curator or additional Staff member for art curation activities. Mayor Bain noted that more information would be needed to discover where funding may come from.

Bruce next discussed the concept refinement of the Downtown Plan which included more direct parking expansion with specific access to Lakeside Memorial Park, an alternative to the downtown boat launch, the best placement of a canoe and kayak launch, a transient boat slip strategy, and the Vannelli's block redevelopment.

Bruce discussed parking alternatives as a primary point of conversation that has been discussed in previous workshop and feedback events for the Downtown Plan. He introduced a variety of ideas with concept maps which included a multi-level parking lot. There was discussion about the round-about in the downtown area at Lake Street and Broadway Avenue along with continued parking ideas. There was also discussion about the pedestrian crossing needs.

Blake Roberts commented on the additional funding provided by the EDA and the further study information that is to be presented at the next EDA Meeting. Susan Young provided additional comments on the Hardwood Trail and how to draw bikers from the trail into the Downtown area.

Bruce pointed out the difference between the Concept 1 and Concept 2 plans noting the parking decks. He commented on the water table as a roadblock and the idea of having a wall in the way of the viewscape. Susan Young commented that a parking wall can be utilized as part of the activation methods of curated art areas such as a photo wall for instagrammable postings.

Jerry Grundtner commented on both concepts presented being dependent on the relocation of the boat launch. Assistant City Administrator Dan Udem commented on the boat launch study from 2005 and he noted that relocation was cost prohibitive at that time. He also commented that the DNR grant agreement is up in 2025. There was further conversation about the boat launch.

Mayor Bain asked about the timeline of exploring additional options for relocation of the boat launch. Assistant City Administrator Udem commented that the City is in a good position now to begin conversations with the DNR about relocating the boat launch prior to the grant agreement expiring in July 2025.

Bruce finished the conversation by summarizing the concept plans and the consensus of the group. He noted that he will redraw some concepts for the next meeting. He also noted that he will be discussing implementation options at the next meeting on May 9. Blake Roberts commented on a larger marina concept for the next meeting.



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### 5. Adjourn

Motion to: Adjourn

Comments:

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                                 |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Mara Bain, Mayor   |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Kelly Monson, Councilmember                                |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Bain, Monson, Valento, Roberts, Huntosh, Lorge, Erickson   |
| <b>ABSENT:</b>   | Young (left meeting early), Finnemann (left meeting early) |