

# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE STAPLES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

July 22, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Staples Economic Development Authority was called to order by Chairman Murray at 5:01 p.m. on Tuesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, and was held in-person at the Staples City Hall council chamber. Present were Commissioners Bendson, Bjerga, Case, Gertken, and Murray. With Gerard and Tappe marked as absent. Also present were Staples World Editor Mark Anderson, SEDA Executive Director Lucas Wakefield, and the Staples City Administrator, Jerel Nelsen.

The meeting agenda was reviewed and Case moved to approve the agenda as written. Bendson seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor. Carried.

Minutes of the June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting were reviewed. It was moved by Bjerga and seconded by Gertken to approve the minutes as submitted. Vote was unanimous in favor. Carried.

SEDA board discussed the fact that staff of the City of Staples and SEDA had been approached by the new owners of the former Taylor Funeral Home across the parking lot from City Hall about the possibility of the city acquiring the parcel. The SEDA director gave an overview of possible use cases for the property as well as what some of the expenses might be. The board directed the SEDA director to arrange a walkthrough for interested EDA board members and agreed to consider the matter further. No other actions were taken.

SEDA board considered the removal of a previously stipulated requirement for title insurance on SEDA awning and facade loan previously approved to Ms. Colleen Frost using her property as collateral with the rationale that 1) a free and clear Ownership & Encumbrance report had been provided to SEDA and 2) that title insurance along with all of the other required paperwork would be relatively expensive against the sizing of the loan. Gertken moved to remove the requirement. Bjerga seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor. Carried.

Wakefield gave updates on new businesses attraction/retention efforts. Discussion was also had on the activities of the trails committee, especially regarding the Arboretum trail which had recently been constructed and opened for public useage. Wakefield also gave updates about the SEDA director's work with LEAP subcommittee, Small Cities, and the Blandin Grant. Wakefield noted that banners and flags had been installed and that work had been completed on garage doors out at the SEDA industrial park building.

A motion was made by Gertken seconded by Bendson to adjourn the meeting at 5:54 p.m. Vote in favor was unanimous. Carried.

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Lucas Wakefield, Secretary