

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

September 23, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Staples Economic Development Authority was called to order by Chairman Murray at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, and was held in-person at the Staples City Hall council chamber. Present were Commissioners Bendson, Bjerga, Case, Gerard, Murray and Tappe. With Bendson and Gertken 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. Gerard seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous in favor. Carried.

Minutes of the July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, meeting were reviewed. It was moved by Bjerga and seconded by Tappe to approve the minutes as submitted. Vote was unanimous in favor. Carried.

Wakefield gave updates regarding efforts on behalf of the LEAP strategic doing committee as well as the planned activities for the winter 2025 holiday season and future winter festivals. 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. There were continued discussions from previous meetings regarding possible use cases for the building and the possible merits of city control over the parcel. The board directed the SEDA director to arrange a walkthrough for interested EDA board members and agreed to consider the matter further. The board asked that the SEDA director find out a cost estimate both for demolition and purchase of the property. No other actions were taken.

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 use. Wakefield also gave updates on Small Cities progress and Blandin Grant final purchases. Wakefield noted that there may be an interested party who might rent the A unit in the EDA industrial park building.

A motion was made by Tappe, seconded by Bjerga to adjourn the meeting at 5:53 p.m. Vote in favor was unanimous. Carried.

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Lucas Wakefield, Secretary