



HEDRA Memorandum

To: HEDRA
From: John Hinzman, Community Development Director
Eric Maass, Economic Development Coordinator
Date: May 13, 2021
Item: Strategic Plan Follow-Up

REQUEST:

Staff has divided HEDRA feedback from the work session into four initiative areas. Within those four initiatives are various actionable items. **Staff is requesting that HEDRA members email their top 3 actionable items to City Staff no later than Tuesday May 11th.** Staff will compile responses for further discussion at the meeting.

Staff is also seeking general consensus from HEDRA that the below list accurately represents the desires of HEDRA and serve as an overall workplan for the remainder of 2021 and 2022. Note that Staff will utilize this list to create budgetary recommendations for HEDRA review that could then be sent to City Council as the 2022 City budget is prepared.

RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Proposed Initiatives

1. Meet Hastings' Housing Needs

- a. Identify blight for code enforcement action and/or acquisition for redevelopment
- b. Explore new loan program to aid in the preservation of existing Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH). Program would fund abatement of environmental hazards like lead paint, asbestos abatement, and private sanitary sewer utility repair.

2. Development of Underutilized Sites

- a. Vermillion Street/Hwy 61
 - i. Crossroads Commercial Site

- ii. Vermillion/Cty Hwy 47 Intersection (2.0+/- acre site still owned by Kwik Trip)
 - iii. Former Wells Fargo Block (between 4th and 5th)
- b. Highway 55
 - i. Target Site
 - ii. Westview Mall
 - iii. Marcus Theatre Site
- c. Downtown
 - i. The Confluence
 - ii. 317 3rd Street E Apartment Project
 - iii. UBC Site Redevelopment
 - iv. Block 1 Redevelopment

3. Improvements in Development Process

- a. Staff to meet with developers / businesses that have recently gone through the development process to gain a better understanding of places for improvement.

4. Business Retention and Expansion

- a. Annually complete 12 formal BR&E visits and 100 unique business drop-ins.
- b. Workforce – Explore partnership opportunities between DCTC, Inver Hills Community College, and local businesses.

ATTACHMENTS: