

**Winnebago County Board
Economic Development Committee**

County Administration Building
404 Elm Street
Room 303
Rockford, IL 61101

MINUTES of
Monday, August 25, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Members Present:

John Sweeney, Chair
Tim Nabors, Vice Chair
Freddy De La Trinidad
Angela Fellars
Brad Lindmark
John Penney (Virtual)
Ray Thompson

Other Present:

Chris Dornbush, Chief Operations Officer, Winnebago County
Isaac Guerrero, Director, Economic Development & Policy, RIPC
Phil Pittsford, Economic Analyst, RIPC
Valerie Hanserd, County Board Member
Aaron Booker, County Board Member
Kristen Bell, Executive Vice President, GoRockford
Julie Huber, Operations Director Destination Development, GoRockford
Laurie Miller, Treasurer & Capital Campaign Mgr., Pec Playhouse Theatre
Brian Pauley, Vice President, Pec Playhouse Theatre
Dave Zimmerman, Contractor, DPI (Pec Playhouse Theatre)

AGENDA:

A. Call to Order

Chairman John Sweeney called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

B. Roll Call

A roll call was taken of all members present. Chairman John Sweeney, Tim Nabors, Freddy De La Trinidad, Angela Fellars, Brad Lindmark, and Ray Thompson.

Chairman John Sweeney called for a motion to include John Penney in the meeting via Zoom. Motion was made by Angela Fellars and seconded by Brad Lindmark and Tim Nabors.

MOTION APPROVED (6-0). Aye votes were: Chairman John Sweeney, Tim Nabors, Freddy De La Trinidad, Angela Fellars, Brad Lindmark, and Ray Thompson.

John Penney was welcomed to the committee meeting.

A full quorum is present.

C. Approval of Minutes

MOTION TO APPROVE the minutes of **August 4, 2025**, Economic Development Committee by Brad Lindmark and seconded by Freddy De La Trinidad. Chairman John Sweeney called for any discussion.

MOTION APPROVED (7-0). Aye votes were: Chairman John Sweeney, Tim Nabors, Freddy De La Trinidad, Angela Fellars, Brad Lindmark, John Penney, and Ray Thompson.

D. Public Comment

Chairman John Sweeney noted for the record that no members of the public were present to speak during the public comment section; therefore, the public comments will not be read.

E. Resolution Approving Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) From Host Fees To GoRockford, Formerly Known As The Rockford Area Convention And Visitors Bureau (RACVB) To Support The 2025 Stroll On State Event

MOTION TO APPROVE was made by Angela Fellars and seconded by Tim Nabors.

Discussion followed by John Penney, Kristen Bell, Angela Fellars, Ray Thompson, John Sweeney, Julie Huber, and Brad Lindmark. Chairman John Sweeney noted that John Penney had requested an increase in the Host Fees Grant for GoRockford to \$10,000. Chairman John Sweeney asked that data tracking attendance by zip code be sent to Chris Dornbush.

Motion APPROVED (7-0). Aye votes were: Chairman John Sweeney, Tim Nabors, Freddy De La Trinidad, Angela Fellars, Brad Lindmark, John Penney, and Ray Thompson.

F. Presentation On 2026-2030 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Plan Process by R1PC

Isaac Guerrero, Director of Economic Development & Policy at R1PC, delivered a presentation on the 2026-2030, five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The plan was shared with the committee members. Discussion followed by Tim Nabors, Phil Pittsford, R1PC, Freddy De La Trinidad, Chris Dornbush, John Penney, Ray Thompson and Chairman John Sweeney.

G. Resolution Of The County Board Of The County Of Winnebago, Illinois Approving The Support Of And Participation In The 2026-2030 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) For Northern Illinois Region

MOTION TO APPROVE was made by Tim Nabors and seconded by Angela Fellars and Brad Lindmark.

Discussion followed by Chris Dornbush.

Motion APPROVED (7-0). Aye votes were: Chairman John Sweeney, Tim Nabors, Freddy De La Trinidad, Angela Fellars, Brad Lindmark, John Penney, and Ray Thompson.

H. Resolution To Grant One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) From Host Fees To The Pec Playhouse Theatre For Building Capital Improvements

MOTION TO APPROVE was made by Tim Nabors and seconded by Brad Lindmark.

Laurie Miller and Brian Pauley from Pec Playhouse Theatre, along with Dave Zimmerman, the Contractor, introduced themselves to the committee. Chairman John Sweeney noted that Aaron Booker, the County Board representative supporting the project, was in attendance.

Discussion followed by Angela Fellars, Tim Nabors, John Penney, Aaron Booker, and Chairman John Sweeney.

MOTION TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION was made by Chairperson John Sweeney to increase the Host Fees to The Pec Playhouse Theatre for Building Capital Improvements to One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) in three sections of the Resolution and seconded by Tim Nabors and Brad Lindmark.

MOTION TO AMEND WAS APPROVED (7-0) Aye votes were: Chairman John Sweeney, Tim Nabors, Freddy De La Trinidad, Angela Fellars, Brad Lindmark, John Penney, and Ray Thompson.

Discussion followed by John Penney. Chairperson John Sweeney stated that increasing the Host Fees to \$150,000 will enable the Pec Playhouse Theatre to cross the threshold and become an active project.

MOTION AS AMENDED APPROVED (7-0). Aye votes were: Chairman John Sweeney, Tim Nabors, Freddy De La Trinidad, Angela Fellars, Brad Lindmark, John Penney, and Ray Thompson.

I. Other Matters

None reported.

J. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN the meeting by Ray Thompson and seconded by Brad Lindmark.

MOTION APPROVED (7-0). to adjourn at 6:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Bleile
Executive Assistant