

A. INTRODUCTIONS Those present were Jason Arenz, Jake Fisketjon, Tyler Gerhardt, Reice Haase, Jonathan Leonard, Tess Schmidt, Sherwin Wanner, Trey Wiest, Jonathan Hooker, Jordan Freitag, Donovan Kruger, Nathan Schneider, Noah Vroman, Ashley Hruby, Ashley with Discovery Properties, City Administrator Jim Neubauer, Business Development & Communications Director Madison Cermak, Communications Specialist Kari Schmidt, and Planner Andrew Stromme, .

B. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. *Consider approval of Minutes from the Oct. 9, 2024 Growth Fund Meeting.* Wanner made a motion to approve and Leonard seconded, the motion passed.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. *Consider applications for three positions on the Mandan Growth Fund beginning Jan. 1, 2025:* . All the applicants were in attendance. Three positions are open for terms beginning Jan. 1, 2025 through Dec. 31, 2027. The applicants had an opportunity to introduce themselves to the committee and answer any questions that may arise. Haase moved and Wanner seconded to make a recommendation to appoint Jordan Freitag, Jonathan Leonard, and Jonathan Hooker to three-year terms on the Growth Fund. Roll Call vote: Aye 6, Nay 0, Absent Dockter & Weisbeck. The motion passed. The applicants were encouraged to look out for openings throughout the year and next October.

1. *Jordan Freitag.*

2. *Trey Wiest.*

3. *Jonathan Leonard.*

4. *Donovan Kruger.*

5. *Jonathan Hooker.*

2. *Consider a fire sprinkler assistance application for Discovery Properties LLC at 1702 E Main St.* Discovery Properties will be opening a daycare (Discovery Kids Academy) in the former Weedas/Kids in Motion Pediatric Therapy building. The quote they received is for \$59,031 to install a commercial fire sprinkler system. The building is currently vacant with one remaining tenant who will vacate after the sale. The closing date is anticipated for April 30. The Discovery Kids Academy will alleviate the shortage of childcare in Mandan and Bismarck where parents face long waitlists. By creating a facility with the capacity for 249 children, however their final number is anticipated at 150-200. Depending on the ages of the children they would possibly need to have 15-20 employees. Hours are anticipated for 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. but they would consider expanding hours if the need arises. Leonard moved and Gerhardt seconded to provide \$10,000 for fire sprinkler assistance to Discovery Properties LLC at 1702 E Main St contingent upon zoning approval. Roll Call vote: Aye 7, Nay 0, Absent Dockter, Weisbeck. The motion passed.

D. OTHER BUSINESS Cermak provided an update on the finances. As of Nov. 30, the balance stands at \$230,557.

1. *Storefront Improvement Program follow-up.* The suggestions from staff were included in the agenda packet. Stromme went over the design standards suggestions. Staff is asking when the committee would like to open the storefront improvement program to the Memorial Highway corridor. Tess Schmidt

is interested in opening the program to the Memorial Highway with construction. She also asked if staff could identify ways to integrate for a project that doesn't meet the criteria. The consensus was to open the storefront improvement program to Memorial Highway sooner rather than later. Stromme asked the group about their interest in including public art as part of the qualifying improvements as part of a larger project. The consensus seemed to be that the committee would be interested in the mural piece as being a qualifying improvement part of the program. Stromme said staff would think more into it, as it does open the door to more questions.

E. ADJOURN There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.