

A. INTRODUCTIONS Those present were Grant Dockter, Tyler Gerhardt, Reice Haase, Jonathan Leonard, Tess Schmidt, Sherwin Wanner, Jordan Freitag, Jonathan Hooker (Absent Jake Fisketjon). Also present were Mandan Progress Organization staff Matt Schanandore and Triston Kosek, Bismarck Mandan Chamber EDC Noah Vroman, Administrator Jim Neubauer, Business Development & Communications Director Madison Cermak, Communications Specialist Kari Schmidt, and Mayor Jim Froelich.

B. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1. *Consider approval of the minutes from the Feb. 20, 2025 meeting.* Haase moved and Leonard seconded to approve as presented. Roll Call vote: Aye 7, Nay 0, Absent Wanner & Fisketjon. The motion passed.

2. *Review of the Financial Statement through Feb. 28, 2025.* Cermak presented the financial statement. There were no changes since the last meeting, however checks are being cut for the last payout of the Restaurant Rewards program participants that are still receiving that incentive. The uncommitted balance stands at \$222,224.38.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. *Recommendation to set aside dollars for business assistance for Memorial Highway during construction.* Schanandore provided the business survey results for the gift card program. The survey was sent to 130 businesses in the special assessment district for the Memorial Hwy reconstruction project. There were 36 responses for a 28% return rate. Of the 36 responses, over 80% (25 businesses) were in favor of the program. Those not interested, to no surprise, are financial institutions, auto retailers and service businesses. It may just require a visit with some of these businesses who responded "no" or didn't complete the survey to get more interest in the program. Alternate ideas from businesses surveyed included rate discounts or construction specials, or just focusing an incentive on restaurants/walk-in retail businesses.

Hooker asked for a program update in the summer if approved. Schanandore explained that the MPO could come to the committee in late July/August with a usage update for the program.

There was discussion from the group about doing a 25% match for the purchase of gift cards from the start, versus 10% as discussed at the last meeting. The MPO can allocate \$25,000 at the start and then reevaluate within the first few months. The boundaries for the program would be the businesses in the special assessment district (1 & 2).

Dockter moved and Leonard seconded to approve recommending the \$50,000 be allocated to the MPO for a gift card incentive program, set as they see fit, for businesses in the Memorial Highway construction area. Roll Call vote: Aye 8, Nay 0, Absent Fisketjon. The motion passed.

D. OTHER BUSINESS

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

