UPPER EXPLORERLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (UERPC)
BOARD MINUTES OF OCTOBER 26, 2023 MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jack Knight, Fern Rissman, Barb Collins, Darla Kelchen, Ray Peterson, Roger Arthur (via zoom due to being in Florida), Brett Devore (arrived at 1:15 pm), Leon Griebenow (arrived at 1:09 pm), Bruce Lehmann, Alison Holten, Pat Murray (arrived at 1:05 pm), Tim Lecander, Peggy Lensing, Nina Taylor, Shirley Vermace (arrived at 1:04 pm), and Mark Vick.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dennis Keatley, Bonnie Basemann, and Linda Larson Hoopes

OTHERS PRESENT: Rachelle Howe, Karen Cooper, and Diana Johnson

Chairwoman Holten called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm by thanking Roger Arthur for his many years of service on the UERPC board. Roll call was taken. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion was requested for approval of the agenda. A motion was made for approval by Peterson; seconded by Vick. No further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion was requested for approval of the meeting minutes of the August 24, 2023, meeting. A motion was made for approval by Kelchen; seconded by Lensing. No further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Board members Murray and Vermace arrived.

DISBURSEMENTS: Cooper presented the list of disbursements from July 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023 to the board for review. A motion was made by Vick; seconded by Lensing to approve these disbursements for UERPC. No further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Board member Griebenow arrived.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Cooper also presented the treasurer's report to the board for review. A motion was made by Taylor; seconded by Peterson to approve the treasurer's report as presented. No further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

Board member Devore arrived.

COUNTY MEMBERSHIP RATE: Howe stated that she is recommending a 3% increase per resident for the county membership for FY '24. A motion was made by Collins; seconded by Lehmann to approve the increase to county membership rates. No further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

LOCAL MATCH: Howe stated that she would like to continue with Department of Transportation (DOT), Safe Routes to School (SRTS), and Economic Development Authority (EDA) match dollars from each of the counties for fiscal year 2025. Currently, the fiscal year 2024 amounts coming to the agency are $5,286 per county for DOT, $3,598.61 per county for SRTS, and $3,800 per county for EDA. Fiscal year 2025 amounts will be slightly different. A motion was made by Murray; seconded by Collins to approve this match. No further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE: Several commission members are completing their terms at the end of the calendar year. A motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Vermace to form a nominating committee of Holten, Griebenow, Vick, and the Executive Director to nominate the 2024 slate of officers. No further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE: Howe had prepared a director's report and sent within the board packets. She highlighted the childcare wage enhancement fund, IFA awards of repair and first-time homebuyer to our region, ongoing solar project additions and the legislative event scheduled for December 6th in Elkader.

FLOOR ITEMS: Taylor encouraged everyone to vote for the Gilbertson Nature Center as a nominee for the People Choice Award.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 25, 2024 or as called by the board Chair.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Kelchen; seconded by Peterson to adjourn the meeting. No further discussion. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:33 pm.

The above constitutes my interpretation of the matters discussed and the decisions reached. Please contact the undersigned for any corrections or omissions.

/s/ Diana Johnson, Recording Secretary