

Rothsay Areawide EDA MEETING

Rothsay City Hall

July 16, 2025

Approved Minutes

RAEDA regular meeting

7:00 pm

ORDER OF AGENDA

1.0 Call to Order by President Steph Curtis at 7:02 pm. Others present were Board Members Cecil Mosher, Stacy Honer and Heather Weber. Guests present included Amanda Kuschel, Angie Motz, Diane Kunze, Shane Balken, Matt Balken and Justin Neppl.

2.0 Approval of Agenda
Motion to approve the agenda by Weber, seconded by Honer. Motion carried.

3.0 Approval of Minutes
3.1 Approval of May 21 meeting minutes, June 4 Prairie Days meeting minutes, and June 18 meeting minutes.
Motion to approve minutes from May 21, June 4 and June 18 by Curtis, seconded by Honer. Motion carried.

3.2 Review and Approval of Financials

- Checking account balance is \$23,728.21 and savings account balance is \$9,565.84.
- One check waiting to clear, and additional deposits and bills pending.

Motion by Moser to approve the financials as reported, seconded by Curtis. Motion carried.

4.0 Committee Reports; if any

4.1 Social Media and Marketing

- Yard of Week posts getting good engagement

4.2 Housing and Consumer Services

- No report (covered in 7.1)

4.3 Workforce and Commercial Development

- No report

4.4 Events and Fundraising

- No report (covered in 6.1)

6.0 Old Business

6.1 Prairie Days recap

- Discussion regarding Prairie Days 2025 and review of events.
- Friday's events went well. Diane Kunze reported that the Lions Community Meal was well attended, and the KidSight Vision Screenings served approximately 22 youth. The musical had 30 youth participants, and the pairing of the two events seemed beneficial.

- Saturday's events were less successful. However, Rita Olson reported to Steph and Heather that the Pedal Pull went well, they enjoyed the relocated venue and the new time slot, with only one participant being concerned about timing with parade preparations.
- Street Dance went fine but it was hot and had lower turnout. TC's have reported they are no longer going to host the event. Angie Motz reported the Powerhouse is contemplating continuing, but it will depend on the structure of Prairie Days.
- Weather was a factor in the poor participation, discussion about options moving forward including frequency of event, adding different events such as a wood bat, basketball or pickleball tournaments, location changes, moving the event to a different time of year or hosting multiple smaller events throughout the year. The pros and cons of each were discussed.
- Next step is to send out a survey to judge community interest in Prairie Days and learn what is of interest.
- Income and Expenses: Final Expenses are still being determined and will be reviewed next month.
- Post prom donation: Youth volunteered at Kids Activities during Prairie Days. Traditionally they receive a donation to the Post Prom account for their efforts. **Motion by Weber to donate \$250.00 to Post Prom, seconded by Curtis. Motion carried.**
- Future plans-dates, etc.: Will be determined at a future meeting once community input is received.

6.2 Home at 214 1st Ave NW – final financials

- The final rebate and final utility bill have been received. Honer will work to finalize the financials for next month's meeting.

6.3 Breakfast with Business/Community Leaders follow-up

- Event was held July 10th and went well. Discussion was held around Prairie Days review and childcare closings.

6.4 Lawn of the week promotion

- Promotion is going well. Posts on social media are getting good engagement with individuals seeming to enjoy the event. One citizen has remarked she is cleaning up her yard and wants to know who is judging.

6.5 New resident welcome basket

- EDA will be reaching out to local businesses and organizations for items for Welcome Baskets for new residents. We would like to have 5 in reserve. Moser will approach businesses for donations/swag for the baskets. Weber will contact Kellie Barry with the City regarding a complimentary 3-month Fitness Club pass. Curtis will continue to work on gathering additional materials.

6.6 Website photos/updates

- Weber reports this is on hold for now due to upcoming changes with the City website due to state law changes and compliance requirements.

6.7 Fundraising – Cookbook

- Some recipes have been sent in
- Shane Balken will be reaching out to individuals to form a committee and working with Boyce and Reber to produce the cookbook.

6.8 Childcare closing – discussion with New Life Lutheran Church

- New Life Lutheran Church Council meet with Early Childhood Specialist Marsha Erickson from West Central Initiative regarding using their space to host a family childcare provider. Erickson reviewed the space and believed it would work well, referring them to the Wilkin County licensor for the next steps. The church, licensor and a Childcare Navigator from CAP-LP will meet on Monday, July 21 for next steps.
- Curtis will reach out to one of the interested childcare providers to see if they can attend.
- The Rothsay School has indicated they would likely donate equipment to the church/provider if necessary and would entertain the option of catering meals.
- The timeline for opening a facility would be approximately 3 months if everything goes well.

6.9 Farmers Market

- The survey on the Farmers Market idea returned positive results. Four to five individuals indicated they would be a vendor and approximately 50 individuals said they would attend.
- Survey results showed mixed opinion between Saturday morning and Wednesday evening.
- The decision to explore Wednesday evening to not conflict with Fergus Falls Farmers Market held Saturday morning and Wednesday early afternoon was made.
- Curtis will contact the vendors and also try to reach out to Fergus Falls Farmers Market vendors.

7.0 New Business

7.1 Building project / Spec home

- Justin Neppl made a presentation to the EDA regarding developing the vacant lots around the REC into housing.
- Neppl is forming a partnership with two other individuals, Brian Stanslaski and Jon Lowry to become housing developers in rural Minnesota.
- Neppl's group would like to become the official developers for Rothsay.
- They have developed a site design for the City owned land around the REC and will send that to the City for consideration.
- JPA and the Wilkin County Commissioners are already working with this group on projects in Campbell and are willing to fund loans for this work.
- Discussion with Neppl on options and possible adjustments. Neppl will revise the schematics for EDA consideration.
- Shane Balken will add to City Council agenda for consideration as well.

8.0 Action Item Takeaways

- **Curtis** contact vendors for Farmers Market and set dates with Amanda.
- **Curtis** continue working with NLLC on childcare space considerations.
- **Shane Balken** develop a Cookbook Committee.
- **Shane Balken** work with developer and forward information on to EDA members.
- **Moser** reach out to businesses for items for Welcome Baskets.
- **Weber** reach out to Kellie Barry regarding Fitness Club membership.
- **Curtis** develop survey for Prairie Days.
- **Honer** finalize financials for EDA house and Prairie Days

9.0 Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Honer, seconded by Mosher. Motion carried at 8:49.