

**MINUTES**

**Iowa Economic Development Authority  
Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Review Committee Meeting  
February 21, 2025  
9:05 a.m.  
1963 Bell Avenue, Suite 200 – Helmick Conference Room**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Melissa Spurgin  
Bobbi Bentz  
Doug Boone  
Mark Kittrell  
Megan McKay

**COMMITTEE MEMBER(S) ABSENT:**

None

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Megan Andrew  
Lisa Connell  
Emily Hockins  
Molly Lopez  
Maicie Pohlman  
Alaina Santizo

Sonya Bacon  
Debi Durham  
Staci Hupp Ballard  
Anne McMahon  
Terry Roberson  
Brent Tade

Vicky Clinkscales  
Rita Grimm  
Kanan Kappelman  
Rick Peterson  
Katie Rockey  
Deanna Triplett

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Emily Schmitt – IEDA Board Member  
Pankaj Monga – IEDA Board Member  
Rob Denson – IEDA Ex Officio Member  
Representative Ray Sorensen – Ex Officio IEDA Board Member  
Courtney Bushell – Iowa Finance Authority  
Noel Anderson – City of Waterloo  
Evan Johnson – Legislative Services Agency  
Lisa Skubal – Grow Cedar Valley  
Jeremy Rounds – Southern Iowa Council of Governments  
Letty Azar – Penske Corp  
Craig Armstrong – City of Newton  
Lexi Schneider – City of Waterloo

Jennifer Steffensmeier – IEDA Board Member  
Hank Norem – IEDA Board Member  
David Barker – Ex Officio IEDA Board Member  
Brian Sweeney – Iowa Finance Authority

Tyler Barnard – Iowa Finance Authority  
Addison Lathers – Des Moines Register  
Kevin Baskins – Des Moines Register  
Laura Jones – Cherokee County  
Jo Adams – Lenox Walking Trail Committee

Eric Peterson – Iowa Speedway, LLC  
Adrienne Miller – Grow Cedar Valley  
Jason White – Greater Dubuque Development Corp

Connie Boesen – Des Moines Mayor

**COMMITTEE CHAIR**

- Welcome  
Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Review Committee Chair Melissa Spurgin called to order the meeting at 9:07 am
- Roll Call and Introductions  
A quorum of the Committee was established with the following members present: Melissa Spurgin, Bobbi Bentz, Doug Boone, Mark Kittrell and Megan McKay.

**Approval of Minutes – January 17, 2025 CAT Meeting**

**MOTION:** Bobbi Bentz moved that the Committee approve the minutes of the January 17, 2025 meeting, seconded by Megan McKay. Motion carried unanimously.

**COMMUNITY ATTRACTION AND TOURISM (CAT) PROGRAM APPLICATIONS – RECOMMENDATIONS  
TO IEDA BOARD**

Cherokee County Conservation Board: Licklider Shooting Complex – Supporting Building

**MOTION:** Bobbi Bentz moved, seconded by Mark Kittrell, that the Committee recommend that the Iowa Economic Development Authority Board approve a \$35,000 CAT grant to the Cherokee County Conservation Board for the Licklider Shooting Complex – Support Building Project. Motion carried unanimously.

City of Lenox: Phase 3 of Lenox Trail Extension

**MOTION:** Doug Boone moved that the Committee recommend that the Iowa Economic Development Authority Board approve a \$62,000 CAT grant to the City of Lenox for the Phase 3 of Lenox Trail Extension Project, seconded by Bobbi Bentz. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** No comments were made.

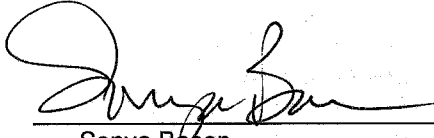
**OTHER BUSINESS**

The next CAT Review Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 21, 2025

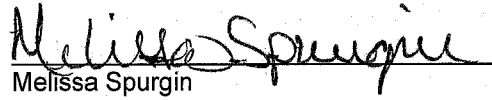
**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the CAT Review Committee, the chair adjourned the meeting at 9:12 am.

**Respectfully submitted:**

  
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Sonya Bacon  
Board Administrator

**Approved as to form:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melissa Spurgin  
Chair