

MINUTES
Iowa Economic Development Authority
Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Program Review Committee Meeting
July 18, 2025
9:00 a.m.
1963 Bell Avenue, Suite 200 – Helmick Conference Room

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Melissa Spurgin
Mark Kittrell
Brenda Mainwaring
Jennifer Steffensmeier

COMMITTEE MEMBER(S) ABSENT:

Rachel Eubank

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sonya Bacon
Debi Durham
Staci Hupp Ballard
Anna Lensing
Anne McMahon
Katie Rockey
Deanna Triplett

Vicky Clinkscales
Rita Grimm
Kanan Kappelman
Molly Lopez
Maicie Pohlman
Alaina Santizo

Lisa Connell
Emily Hockins
Amy Kuhlers
Dillon Malone
Terry Roberson
Paul Stueckradt

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brian Sweeney – Iowa Finance Authority
Bernadette Beck – Iowa Finance Authority
Dan Kinney – Ex Officio IEDA Board Member
Senator Carrie Koelker – Ex Officio IEDA Board Member
Representative Ray Sorensen – Ex Officio IEDA Board Member
Bobbi Bentz – IEDA Board Member
John Riches – IEDA Board Member
Emily Schmitt – IEDA Board Member
Bob Fisher – KGLO News
Gigi Wood – Business Record
Mark Ernst – Black Hills Energy
Phillip Sitter – Des Moines Register
Natalie Merrill – Krause Group

Brian Sullivan – Iowa Finance Authority
David Barker – Ex Officio IEDA Board Member
Senator Izaah Knox – Ex Officio IEDA Board Member
Representative David Jacoby – Ex Officio IEDA Board Member
Doug Boone – IEDA Board Member
Pankaj Monga – IEDA Board Member
Andy Roberts – IEDA Board Member
Nick Pfeiffer – Think Iowa City
Michael Peters – Legislative Services Agency
Bill Freeland – Legislative Services Agency
Jason White – Greater Dubuque Development Corp
Rachel Pfaff – Krause Group
Casey Woodside – ITC Holdings Corp

COMMITTEE CHAIR

- Welcome
Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Review Committee Chair Melissa Spurgin called to order the meeting of the CAT Program Review Committee at 9:01 am
Roll Call and Introductions
A quorum of the Committee was established with the following members present: Melissa Spurgin, Mark Kittrell Brenda Mainwaring and Jennifer Steffensmeier.

Approval of Minutes – May 16, 2025 CAT Meeting

MOTION: Mark Kittrell moved that the Committee approve the minutes of the May 16, 2025 meeting, seconded by Brenda Mainwaring. Motion carried unanimously.



**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No comments were made.

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

City of Des Moines and Iowa Confluence (ICON) Water Trails: Birdland Park Master Plan Improvements – Phase 1 – Des Moines

**MOTION:** Brenda Mainwaring moved, seconded by Jennifer Steffensmeier, that the Committee recommend that the Iowa Economic Development Authority Board approve a \$1,000,000 CAT grant to the City of Des Moines and Iowa Confluence Water Trails for the Birdland Park Master Plan Improvements – Phase 1 Project. Motion carried unanimously.

Hardin County: Iowa River’s Edge Trail: Eldora to Union Connection – Hardin County

**MOTION:** Jennifer Steffensmeier moved, seconded by Mark Kittrell, that the Committee recommend that the Iowa Economic Development Authority Board approve a \$1,000,000 CAT grant to Hardin County for the Iowa River’s Edge Trail: Eldora to Union Connection Project. Motion carried unanimously.

City of Harlan: Grandma B’s Dream Playground Re-Imagined – Harlan

**MOTION:** Brenda Mainwaring moved, seconded by Jennifer Steffensmeier, that the Committee recommend that the Iowa Economic Development Authority Board approve a \$402,667 CAT grant to the City of Harlan for the Grandma B’s Dream Playground Re-Imagined Project. Motion carried unanimously.

City of Floyd: City of Floyd Pickleball Project – Floyd

**MOTION:** Brenda Mainwaring moved, seconded by Mark Kittrell, that the Committee recommend that the Iowa Economic Development Authority Board approve a \$25,000 CAT grant to the City of Floyd for the City of Floyd Pickleball Project. Motion carried unanimously.

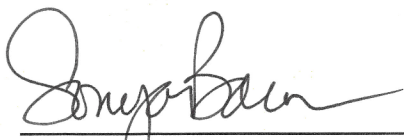
**OTHER BUSINESS**

The next CAT Program Review Committee meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2025

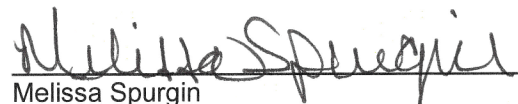
**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the CAT Program Review Committee, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:11 am.

**Respectfully submitted:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sonya Bacon  
Board Administrator

**Approved as to form:**

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