

MINUTES
Iowa Economic Development Authority
Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Program Review Committee Meeting
September 19, 2025
9:00 a.m.
1963 Bell Avenue, Suite 200 – Helmick Conference Room

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Melissa Spurgin
Rachel Eubank
Mark Kittrell
Brenda Mainwaring
Jennifer Steffensmeier

COMMITTEE MEMBER(S) ABSENT:

None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Megan Andrew, Lisa Connell, Debi Durham, Anna Lensing, Anne McMahon, Maicie Pohlman, Alaina Santizo, Sonya Bacon, Lisa Day, Rita Grimm, Molly Lopez, Deanna Triplett, Terry Roberson, Paul Stueckradt, Vicky Clinkscales, Jessica Drake, Emily Hockins, Dillon Malone, Rick Peterson, Katie Rockey

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tyler Barnard – Iowa Finance Authority, Doug Boone – IEDA Board Member, John Riches – IEDA Board Member, Dan Kinney – IEDA Ex-Officio Board Member, Casey Woodside – ITC Holdings Corp, Chad Quick – City of Altoona, Sid Juwarker – Greater Des Moines Partnership, Naomi Hamlett – City of Des Moines, Liz Holland – Merle Hay Mall, Jason White – Greater Dubuque Development Corp, Curtis Brown – City of Urbandale, Aaron DeJong – City of Urbandale, Joseph Townsend – Procter & Gamble, Bill Freeland – Legislative Services Agency, Marketa Oliver – City of Bondurant, Spencer Donahue – CBRE (Joined at 9:03 am), Gigi Wood – Business Record, Jared Hassman – Merle Hay Mall (Joined at 9:07 am), Brian Sullivan – Iowa Finance Authority, Bobbi Bentz – IEDA Board Member, Emily Schmitt – IEDA Board Member, Representative David Jacoby – IEDA Ex-Officio Board Member, Kim Didier – DMACC, Ryan Carroll – Greater Des Moines Partnership, Mark Ernst – Black Hills Energy, Matt Anderson – City of Des Moines, Philip Joens – Des Moines Register, Derek Lord – City of Ankeny, Beau Bowman – KCCI 8 News, Melanie Bimson – Greater Iowa City, Kathy Vance – ISU Extension & Outreach, Cody Christensen – City of Des Moines, Maggie Murray – City of Bondurant, Jace Mikels – Iowa Senate, Evan Johnson – Legislative Services Agency (Joined at 9:04 am), Victoria Newton – Iowa Finance Authority

**COMMITTEE CHAIR**

- Welcome  
Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Program 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, Rachel Eubank, Mark Kittrell, Brenda Mainwaring and Jennifer Steffensmeier.

**Approval of Minutes – August 15, 2025 CAT Meeting**

**MOTION:** Mark Kittrell moved that the Committee approve the minutes of the August 15, 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**

DMACC Foundation – Newton, DMACC Newton Campus Legacy Plaza Project

**MOTION:** Jennifer Steffensmeier moved, seconded by Brenda Mainwaring, that the Committee recommend that the Iowa Economic Development Authority Board approve a \$580,000 CAT grant to the Des Moines Area Community College Foundation for the DMACC Newton Campus Legacy Plaza Project. Motion carried unanimously.

City of Lenox – Lenox, Lenox Pool Enhancements Project

**MOTION:** Mark Kittrell moved, seconded by Rachel Eubank, that the Committee recommend that the Iowa Economic Development Authority Board approve a \$162,000 CAT grant to the City of Lenox for the Lenox Pool Enhancements Project. Motion carried unanimously.

Louisa County Fair Association – Columbus Junction, Louisa County Multi-Purpose Barn Project

**MOTION:** Jennifer Steffensmeier moved, seconded by Rachel Eubank, that the Committee recommend that the Iowa Economic Development Authority Board approve a \$364,000 CAT grant to the Louisa County Fair Association for the Louisa County Multi-Purpose Barn Project. Motion carried unanimously.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The next CAT Program Review Committee meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2025

**ADJOURNMENT**

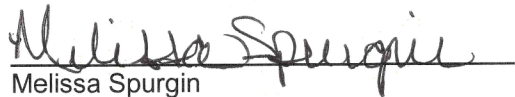
There being no further business to come before the CAT Program Review Committee, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:08 am.

**Respectfully submitted:**

**Approved as to form:**



Sonya Bacon  
Board Administrator



Melissa Spurgin  
Chair