

From: [Lisa C. Kunz](#)
To: [Krista Artis](#)
Subject: FW: Agenda Item #10 - Downtown Development Partnership - TIF Application
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 8:35:31 AM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)

From: Joan Redeen <info@greatfallsbid.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 1:01 PM
To: commission <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Cc: Kellie Pierce <info@downtowngreatfalls.net>; Sherrie Arey <sarey@nwgf.org>; Brett Doney <bdoney@growgreatfalls.org>; Shane Etwiler <setzwiler@greatfallschamber.org>; Joan Redeen <info@greatfallsbid.com>
Subject: Agenda Item #10 - Downtown Development Partnership - TIF Application

Mayor & Commissioners,

The Great Falls Business Improvement District, as a member of the Downtown Development Partnership (DDP), asks that you approve the DDP's TIF application for both fiscal years, FY 2020 and FY 2021.

The DDP was formally established in 2012, in direct response to the Downtown Master Plan and the Urban Renewal Plan. The support of an organization, which is the DDP, is called for in both the Urban Renewal Plan and in the Downtown Master Plan. Our main source of income has been membership dues of \$1,000 per year, paid by five of the eleven member entities. The City and County have been exempt from paying membership dues for many of the years we've been established. We have managed to accomplish quite a bit over the years on our limited budget. The City has supported the DDP with two TIF disbursements in the past and our ability to accomplish projects has increased, as a result.

The BID would not have been able to create and implement a pedlet program without TIF support of the DDP, a program that has received national recognition over the past year I might add. The BID has managed to install public art on several traffic signal boxes located outside of the BID boundaries, as a direct result of the DDP's support of our projects. We would not have taken on the task of creating a city-wide Wayfinding plan, without DDP support (and that support came via TIF funding). Without TIF funding for the DDP these projects would not happen, as the DDP would need to spend their small budget on their operating costs.

If the City does not support our TIF requests for both fiscal years, it will remove the DDP's ability to support the projects that we are supporting – from public art projects, pedlets, wayfinding, education by way of attendance at National and International conventions, our downtown website, marketing of downtown, etc. – we will fall back to 2012 when we were so limited in our ability to do much of anything, other than cover our operating expenses.

We are asking for your support of two fiscal years, both FY 20 and FY 21, at the advice of the City as our application took a more time to process than anticipated. We ask that you approve these TIF

requests, in full, so that we are able to continue the work that we've been doing so Downtown Great Falls can continue to grow! Thank you for your consideration of these requests, I will be watching the Commission meeting and will be available to phone in, should the need arise.

Thank you,

Joan Redeen

Community Director

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The Business Improvement District (BID) is the focal point of regional commerce for social, cultural, governmental, business and residential activity in downtown Great Falls. The goal of the BID is to maintain, beautify, and stimulate development in Great Falls' historic downtown district.



As a Main Street America™ Accredited program, Great Falls is a recognized leading program among the national network of more than 1,200 neighborhoods and communities who share both a commitment to creating high-quality places and to building stronger communities through preservation-based economic development. All Main Street America™ Accredited programs meet a set of National Accreditation Standards of Performance as outlined by the National Main Street Center.