

CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: Monday, September 8, 2014

Agenda Item: Public Discussion on a resolution to support the creation of a non-profit entity to submit a non-state agency grant application and own ‘The Confluence’ Arts Center as part of a project located in downtown Eau Claire.

SUMMARY / BACKGROUND
<p>The Confluence project provides an opportunity to meet the current and future needs of the community, the Downtown, and the University, and combines the experience, capability, skills, talent, and financial resources of the public and private sectors. The construction and successful operation of “The Confluence” project will also require a strong partnership among the private sector, local government, non-profit organizations, and the University.</p> <p>The University of Wisconsin Board of Regents passed a resolution for the 2015 – 2017 UW System Biennial Capital Budget Request supporting the UW-Eau Claire Confluence Project and directing the UW Systems President to work with the Department of Administration to implement the project; however, the application for a non-state agency grant must be submitted by a local government or a non-profit organization.</p> <p>Non-state grant requests are due to the Department of Administration by September 12. The creation of a new entity and the articles of incorporation will occur as soon as possible with knowledge of the application deadline, and be followed with negotiation and approval of any amendments of the articles of incorporation and approval of by-laws. At the Tuesday legislative session, the City Council will consider a resolution to support the creation of a non-profit entity for the purpose of submitting a non-state agency grant application and to own “The Confluence” arts center, along with accepting an invitation to become a member of this new entity.</p>

ACTION / ATTACHMENTS
<p>Action: Public Discussion</p> <p>Attachments: Resolution</p>

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE CREATION OF A NON-PROFIT ENTITY TO SUBMIT A NON-STATE AGENCY GRANT APPLICATION AND OWN “THE CONFLUENCE” ARTS CENTER AS PART OF A PROJECT LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN EAU CLAIRE.

WHEREAS, the City of Eau Claire and the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire have a long and successful history of cooperation and collaboration on projects and initiatives that have been beneficial to both the community and the mission of the University, and

WHEREAS, the City of Eau Claire has experience in undertaking and completing redevelopment projects in the Downtown area that require a partnership between the public and private sector as evidenced by the highly successful Phoenix Park and the North Barstow Street area, and

WHEREAS, a redevelopment project, referred to as “*The Confluence*” project, has been proposed for the Downtown area that consists of a shared arts center, a mixed-use building for housing and commercial retail/restaurant space, structured parking, public park and open space with public amenities, and completion of the river walk/pedestrian trail on the east bank of the Chippewa River and south bank of the Eau Claire River, and

WHEREAS, “*The Confluence*” project provides a unique and unprecedented opportunity to meet the current and future needs of the community, the Downtown, and the University, and

WHEREAS, the proposed project combines the experience, capability, skills, talent, and financial resources of the public and private sectors to accomplish a project that could not be completed by the various entities each on its own, and

WHEREAS, the construction and successful operation of “*The Confluence*” project will require a strong partnership among the private sector, local government, non-profit organizations, and the University, and

WHEREAS, construction and successful operation of the “*The Confluence*” project will in turn strengthen the local and regional economy through immediate job creation, increase economic activity and vitality, improve public access and facilities along the Eau Claire and Chippewa Rivers, raise the local property tax base, and attract and retain students, employees, and citizens through a world-class arts and entertainment facility in an unparalleled location, and

WHEREAS, both the City and County held referendums in April 2014 with the results from both referenda indicating community support for “*The Confluence*” project, and

WHEREAS, Governor Scott Walker has suggested that funding for “*The Confluence*” be provided through a non-state agency grant, and

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents passed a resolution for the 2015 – 2017 UW System Biennial Capital Budget Request which reaffirm its support for the UW-Eau Claire Confluence Project and directs the UW Systems President to work with the Department of Administration to apply for a non-state agency grant and implement the project, and

WHEREAS, the application for a non-state agency grant must be submitted by a local government or a non-profit organization, and

WHEREAS, non-state grant requests are due to the Department of Administration by September 12, 2014, and

WHEREAS, the creation of a new entity and the initial articles of incorporation will occur as soon as possible with the knowledge of the September 12, 2014 application deadline for non-state agency grant funds, and then be followed with negotiation and approval of any necessary amendment of the articles of incorporation and creation and approval of by-laws and such additional ownership and operational agreements as the City determines are necessary.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Eau Claire that the City hereby agrees to support the creation of a non-profit non-stock entity for the purposes of submitting a non-state agency grant application and owning *“The Confluence”* arts center, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City will accept an invitation to become a member of this new entity, subject to future acceptance by the City through its city council, of articles of incorporation, by-laws, and such additional ownership and operational agreements as the City determines are necessary.

Adopted,
September 9, 2014

(SEAL) _____
Council President Kerry J.S. Kincaid

(SEAL) _____
City Manager Russell Van Gompel

(ATTESTED) _____
City Clerk Donna A. Austad