

# Memo

To: Economic Development Authority  
From: Brad Meier, President/CEO  
Date: 9/15/2021  
Re: OACCT Economic Development Update

---

## Economic Development

- See report for leads and 'in progress' reports.

## Workforce

- Megan Horton hired as new Workforce Coordinator for the SteeleCoWorks program.
- First Made in Owatonna Days will be held on Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>: arts, video, graphic design, journalism.
- Met with OHS to discuss plan between Career Navigator and Workforce Coordinator.

## Covid 19/Coronavirus

- Employers conducting incentives to employees for vaccines.
- MN DEED rolling out different grant programs for projects impacted by covid, daycare and business.

## Other:

- New owners at Harlands-Name will change to TGK
- Mankes name will stay with new ownership
- Held 2 meetings to discuss next steps with MainStreet Program including Raney & Schultz
- Discussing flower basket watering with Parks Director this month
- Continuing to push the #BuildingOwatonna and promoting businesses on N. Cedar

<u>Company</u>	<u>Date of Inquiry</u>	<u>Service Provided</u>	<u>Follow ups</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>	<u>Project Outcome: Green (progressing), yellow (probable); red (not moving)</u>
Retailer-Albert lea	6/29/2020	Interested in additional location for her business and Owatonna is on her radar. Currently has locations in Austin and Albert Lea.	Talked about the PartyPlus space and will consider others. Only needs 800-1000 sq ft unless she has additional treatment rooms. Wants to be in a downtown location.	This is still on hold.	
Daycare Center	9/30/2020	Interested in developing a daycare center for the community.	Looking at land options and wanted to know what locations would work best. Discussed some ideas and shared a map created by the city with open land options.	Met with Greg Krushcke about various location options. Idea about the former montessori school building on the south end of town. Called owner and made the connection. 11/30/20 They are working on buying that building. 4/19/21 this project is moving forward they are working out a few details and then closing on building soon.	
Downtown development	2/8/2021	Discussion about a new building project.	Looking at options that could possibly face the straight river.	Started exploring options. 4/19/21 additional work has been done on this to review option, no decision yet.	
Industrial business location r	2/4/2021	Local start up industry looking at moving locations. Discussed his options.	Leaning towards some space that will be opening in the spring.	4/19/21: this move is now pushed out to Aug/Sept, but still planning to do it. 8/13 met with company and architect on this project.	

Business looking to open sales office in owatonna	2/4/2021	Looking for 500 sq ft with potential for growth.	Provided 3 or 4 locations with this sq ft	Follow up has gone unanswered. 4/19/21 still no response from the business.	
Rental Business Looking to expand to Owatonna	2/19/2021	Looking for 8-10,000 sq ft possibly along old 14 for a rental business	Provided several space options and contacts near that area to explore. There are 2 or 3 options that could fit his space requirements, probably 1 that would be in the location he wants.	He's made contact on the locations, hasn't decided yet.	
Local business looking to spread into a new market of food. Looking for locations.	2/19/2021	Looking for existing restaurant space locations. Has walked thru former little cesears pizza site.	Discussed the former Black Sheep site above the Blast, former torey's site, former godfathers site.	No decisions-haven't found right spot.	
Hotel business looking for buyer	4/19/2021	Working with owner who is looking at possible sale of the business.	Received price amount after mayor kuntz met with the individual. Concerns about future of this property.		
Local organization needs space for expanding operations.	4/19/2021	Looking for 3,000 sqft and 15 ft clear span ceilings for their youth atheletic programming.	Walked through all the options we are aware of that are available right now and have put feelers out to local property owners and commercial realtor.	No location found yet	
Local industry moving into larger location running into difficulties opening in new space.	4/19/2021	Working with local business and city on getting space operational according to code needs.	Continue meetings and email communication. City has allowed operation after life/safety was addressed.		
Property Owner looking to develop 5 acres	4/19/2021	Discussion about property on north side of Owatonna for possible residential/apartment development.	Property owner willing to sell. Discussed with OPED group and it is on the radar for future growth.		

Downtown business desire to purchase building	4/19/2021	Met with business owner who is struggling with some issues with landlord and wants to purchase building.	Connected with the right resources as well as city inspections. Holding pattern to see if building owner will move on a sale.		
Existing business looking to expand food production	4/27/2021	Business needs more production space because their business has expanded on line and commercially. Food grade with loading dock.	Contacted new owner of the former Zumbro Foods. He has space available and is willing to show the space. 4/27 did a tour of the facility with the inquiring business. They seem interested, but aren't planning on making a decision until July.		
Restaurant	5/4/2021	Contacted owner of ChilAqui to discuss their future plans and possible locations.	Discussed the corner of N Cedar to discuss long term. They want to own whatever building they would move into. They are interested, but driving truck right now to save \$'s for possible purchase.		
New Building	5/24/2021	Troy Klecker and Brad Meier met with business looking to build an office building somewhere near downtown.	Discussed location options for their use and next steps.		
Industrial Building	6/8/2021	Local business has an option to purchase a building in the industrial park.	Discussed lease rates and space utilization of warehouse vs manufacturing.		
Commercial Property	6/8/2021	Commercial broker looking for information on the former Sisters Salong location.	Connected with building owner to get the building details and post on the owatonnadevelopment.com site. Looking for a national chain for the 6k sq ft site.		

Industrial	7/1/2021	Business creating elliptical equipment for people who are in wheelchairs. New venutre located in Shakopee, MN.	Wanted to see if there were either manufacturing he could partner with to build the equipment or space to do the work. Scheduled a time for him to come to Owatonna for a visit.	Owner followed up with an email and said they are now staying in Shakopee.	
Commercial Property	7/15/2021	Local business looking to move to new location and purchase approx. 2,500 sq ft of office space.	Looking for high visibility and want to own.		
Church	7/15/2021	Local church looking to own building and expand into 10,000 sq ft of space	Looked at Pillsbury and couple other vacant buildings, but haven't found the right fit.	Reviewed all options. Keeping an eye out for them.8/5 might have an option for them-current church that may be available	
Office Space-WDI	7/29/2021	Looking for 1,000-1,500 sq feet of office space to reopen the workforce center in Owatonna.	Lined up several spots in the community for review.	Looks like they will co-locate with United Way of Steele County	
Piano Lessons Space	7/30/2021	Looking for approx. 500 sq ft to do piano lessons	Provided several downtown building owners who might have that type of space. She still isn't finding what she needs. 8/2: provided contact information for the Music Space to see if that could be a fit.	nothing finalized	

Automation Business	8/13/2021	Through a staff member at the Chamber learned that this business is looking to relocate to Owatonna. They are growing and need space. Also want I35 visibility.	8/15/2021: sent an introductory email and have a phone call scheduled for next week to learn more details. 8/17/21: spoke on the phone about their needs: company works with customers from 3M to Advance Coil, employs 27 engineers, looking to own a 50,000 sq ft building, 22 ft clear, near I35.	8/25/21: Greg Kruschke and Brad Meier went to the business to discuss their needs and view their operation. 8/30/21: Kruschke set up meeting with developer to meet with the business later in the week.	
Owatonna Retailer	8/13/2021	Business is changing their sales model and want to find a new location	Providing multiple location options in downtown		
Downtown Retail/Building O	9/1/2021	Has an opportunity to possibly sell the building and wanted to better understand the market.	Identified a couple recent sales downtown. Not totally comparable, but gave some idea. Also encouraged her to discuss with a realtor.		