

4

Key Takeaways from the **April 11, 2025** Economic Development Merger Committee meeting

Organizational Structure Updates

After sharing the initial organizational structure during forums with staff and stakeholders in March, the committee has made some adjustments to the structure. The original structure included two primary pillars—Business Development and Experiences. The updated structure includes three primary pillars—**Business Development, Community Development, and Destination Development**. The Community Development pillar is designed to focus on a variety of quality of life initiatives.

The updates to the organizational structure will be shared as part of the presentation to the Brookings City Council on Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

Defining Staffing Needs

Based on the updated organizational structure, a workgroup comprised of merger committee members discussed the staffing needs of the future merged organization. A variety of information, including feedback provided through staff interviews and the forums, informed the initial discussion.

The merged organization will require a similar number of staff positions and a similar budget to support staff compensation. As the conversation around staffing matures, members of the merger committee will begin engaging existing staff to discuss the potential structure.

Considering the Board of Directors

Another workgroup considered a variety of elements related to the board of directors of the future merged organization. The workgroup considered the selection process, representation, term limits, voting rights, and potential officer positions for the new board.

The group agreed that a selection committee for the new board of directors, including representation from the existing organizations, will be appointed by Friday, April 25, 2025.

Upcoming Public Events

A draft version of the implementation plan will be presented to the Brookings City Council during the council's regular meeting on **Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 6:00pm**. The meeting will be held in council chambers on the third floor of the City County Government Center.

The committee will host a public open house on **Wednesday, April 30, 2025 from 5:00 to 6:30pm** at the McCrory Gardens Visitor Center. All members of the public are invited to attend to learn more about the merger.

Members of the committee also intend to record an explainer video to share virtually. The video should be available before the end of April.

Meeting Attendance

Committee members in attendance at this meeting were Wayne Avery, Angela Boersma, Tom Fishback, Andi Fouberg, Paul Gilk, Marcus Heemstra, Jamison Lamp, Jacob Meshke, Michael Schulte, Laci Thompson, Holly Tilton Byrne, Mike Turnwall, and Nick Wendell.