



City of Grand Forks  
Staff Report

Committee of the Whole – December 8, 2025  
City Council – December 15, 2025

**APPROVED & ACCEPTED**  
*by City Council*

12/15/2025

*Maureen Storstad*  
Maureen Storstad  
City Auditor

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**Agenda Item:** Appointment to the Growth Fund Committee: Matt Walkowiak

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**Prepared by:** Todd Feland, City Administrator

**Submitted by:** Mayor Brandon Bochenski

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**Staff Recommended Action:** Approve the appointment of Matt Walkowiak to the Growth Fund Committee for a three (3) year term to begin January 1, 2026 and expire December 31, 2028.

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**Committee Recommended Action:** Motion by Osowski, second by Berg to move staff recommendation to City Council with a recommendation to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

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**City Council Action:** Motion by Vein, second by Fridolfs to approve on consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

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**BACKGROUND:**

The Growth Fund Committee is composed of three Grand Forks City Council representatives and four representatives nominated by the Board of the Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation (EDC). Jonathan Holth, who has served on the Committee since 2018, intends to retire from the Committee at the expiration of his current term on December 31, 2025.

The EDC recommends appointing Matt Walkowiak to the Growth Fund Committee for a three-year term to fill Mr. Holth's seat. Mr. Walkowiak is a local business owner with a strong understanding of the needs of the small business community. He also has served on and chaired various boards in the community, including the Alerus Center Commission and Grand Forks-East Grand Forks Chamber board of directors. This combination of experience provides a valuable perspective to the Growth Fund Committee.

**FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS:**

- The Growth Fund Committee advises the Grand Forks Growth Fund, a Jobs Development Authority, on requests for support, programs, policies and procedures.
- EDC-nominated committee members serve three-year terms; the term for the seat currently held by Mr. Holth expires December 31, 2025.

**SUPPORT MATERIALS:**

- Nomination letter from EDC President & CEO Keith Lund

December 5, 2025

Mayor Brandon Bochenski  
City of Grand Forks  
255 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Grand Forks, ND 58203

Re: Nominee to the Growth Fund Committee

Dear Mayor Bochenski,

The Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation (EDC) Board of Directors met on December 4, 2025 to consider the upcoming Growth Fund Committee vacancy currently held by retiring member Jonathan Holth. At that meeting, the EDC board voted to recommend Matt Walkowiak to a 3-year term on the Growth Fund Committee beginning January 1, 2026.

In their deliberations, the EDC board considered Mr. Walkowiak's successful experience as a small business owner and strong commitment to Grand Forks through community service. Mr. Walkowiak is a partner at Harry's Steakhouse and owner of Ground Round in Grand Forks, giving him a strong understanding of the needs of the small business community. He also previously served on the Alerus Commission and Grand Forks-East Grand Forks Chamber board of directors, including terms of chairman of both boards. Mr. Walkowiak also chaired the Chamber's efforts to promote public discussion on the 0.5% infrastructure sales tax proposal approved by Grand Forks voters in 2016.

The EDC believes that Mr. Walkowiak has the requisite skills, experience, and community passion to be an effective member of the Growth Fund Committee and that he will bring an important perspective to the work of the committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Keith Lund  
President & CEO

Cc: Todd Feland, Grand Forks City Administrator  
Andrew Conlon, Economic Development Manager, City of Grand Forks