



# Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request



**Requested Meeting Date:** July 11, 2023

**Title of Item:** Business Development & Recreation Grant: Award funding

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	<b>Action Requested:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft)	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing* <small>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</small>
<b>Submitted by:</b> Mark Jeffers		<b>Department:</b> Administration
<b>Presenter (Name and Title):</b> Mark Jeffers, Economic Development Coordinator		<b>Estimated Time Needed:</b> 5 minutes
<b>Summary of Issue:</b> <p>The Aitkin County Economic Development Committee has received and reviewed grant funding requests for the Business Development &amp; Recreation Grant Program. Grant applications and grant award summary are included.</p> <p>The Committee was unanimous on the recommendation. The Committee recommends and requests approval to award the following grants at this time:</p> <p>Trails Inn, Quadna Mountain = \$2,000          The Craft House = \$1,745</p> <p>The purpose of this grant fund is to leverage county funds, private funds and volunteer efforts to increase small business development activities in Aitkin County, with an emphasis on increasing sustained tourism and recreation activities. Several organizations may submit a single application or organizations may apply individually. Organizations need only to commit one hundred dollars (\$100) in good faith to ensure commitment to the grant request. The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners, have approved funding to be used to directly impact the Community of Aitkin County by executing the Aitkin County Business Development &amp; Recreation Grant.</p>		
<b>Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:</b>		
<b>Recommended Action/Motion:</b> Economic Development requests approval of a motion to award the recommended grants.		
<b>Financial Impact:</b> <i>Is there a cost associated with this request?</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$</i> <i>Is this budgeted?</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i> This funding is budgeted through the ARPA funding.		

Legally binding agreements must have County Attorney approval prior to submission.

**Business Development and Recreation Grant**

Year	#	Facility Name	Project Name	City	\$ requested	\$ Awarded	Comments	Informed
2023	1	Shamrock Township	Shamrock Recreational Area	Shamrock	\$ 1,950		Not applicable	Yes
	2	Cabin Fever Videos	Camera Advancement	Hill City	\$ 1,942		Not applicable	Yes
	3	Long Lake Foundation	Nature Rocks! A fundraiser for conservation	Palisade	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	full award	Yes
	4	Palisade Event Committee	Uptown Palisade Revitalization	Palisade	\$ 925	\$ 925	full award	Yes
	5	My Crafts n Things	Business signage	Aitkin	\$ -	\$ -	moved to Revitalization Grant	Yes
	6	Smokey Jake's BBQ	Business signage	Aitkin	\$ -	\$ -	moved to Revitalization Grant	Yes
	7	City of Aitkin	Sign project	Aitkin	\$ 2,000		not for city	
	8	Habitat for Humanity	motorcycle ride fundraiser	Aitkin	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100		Yes
	9	Jaques Art Center	Art for Everyone	Aitkin	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400		Yes
	10	Aitkin Chamber of Commerce	Paddle Your Glass Off	Aitkin	\$ 1,550	\$ 1,550		
	11	Rialto Theatre	menu display items	Aitkin	\$ 1,257	\$ 1,257		
	12	Palisade One Stop	LED strip lights to canopy	Aitkin	\$ 2,000			
	13	City of Hill City	4th of July Festival	Hill City	\$ 2,000			
	14	Quadna Mountain	build digital platform	Hill City	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000		
	15	Swanson Park Sportcourt	city of Palisade	Palisade	\$ 2,000			
	16	Quadna Hills Golf Course	new storage building	Hill City	\$ 2,000			
	17	The Craft House	digital menu boards	Mcgregor	\$ 1,745	\$ 1,745		

\$ 25,869 \$ 11,977

Remaining \$

12,023



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## Application for Aitkin County Business Development & Recreation Grant Program January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

- Grant requests should be submitted by EMAIL to: [mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us](mailto:mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us), subject line: BD&R2023 or by mail to:  
Mark Jeffers  
Aitkin County Government Center  
307 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW, Room 316  
Aitkin, MN 56431
- Funding recommendations will be considered at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Aitkin County Economic Development Committee in June 2023. Application deadline is **May 31, 2023**.
- Committee recommendations will be submitted to the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners for final approval.

### APPLICANT INFORMATION

#### PROGRAM INFORMATION

**Project Name:** UnTapped

**Date(s) of Program:** 24 months

**Location of Program:** 19037 Goshawk Street, McGregor MN

**Organization/Community Name:** The Craft House

**Person in Charge of Project:** Cory Eken

**Organization Mailing Address (Street Name or P.O. Box or Route and Box # and City and Zip Code):**

21049 220th Street, McGrath MN 56350

**Contact Person's Phone #:** 651-338-1751

**Contact Person's Email:** ceken1977@gmail.com

**Description/focus/purpose of your organization:** We are a unique bar and restaurant featuring only MN crafts beer and MN distilled liquors.

#### FUNDING:

Amount requested from Aitkin County \$ 1745  
(Minimum \$100.00, maximum request is 2,000.00). The Economic Development Committee may recommend to the Board of Commissioners to increase or decrease the amount awarded at their discretion. The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners grants the final approval for funding.

Amount of your organization's match \$ 1776.94

Total projected budget \$ 3521.94

#### PROJECT/EVENT DESCRIPTION: Be concise and complete; attach supporting information if needed.

This UNTapped project is taking The Craft House from wastefully using paper beer menus that potentially change weekly sometimes daily during peak tourist seasons to using tv monitor menu technology and QR codes. \_\_\_\_\_



**What do you hope to accomplish, how it will be done and specifically how the grant funds will be used.**

We will accomplish a big cut back on using paper menus that get thrown away sometimes as often as on a daily to weekly basis by going to a tv monitored beer menu system called UNTapped. Having 36 MN craft beers on tap, our menu constantly needs to be updated. It seems like every time we print a new menu, we blow a keg, causing that menu to not be accurate. With Untapped instead of printing a bunch of new menus, we can go online, change the name of the beer and it instantly makes the menu change on the tv monitor. The Untapped app works with a QR code too for customers to pull up on their smartphones.

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**Explain how your project will bring visitors to or provide a positive and sustainable economic impact on Aitkin County.**

By using UNTapped tv monitor craft beer menus, will help us to drastically cut back on continuous printing paper menus that can change as often as on a daily to weekly basis and get thrown away. We have purchased three smart tv's ( two for inside and one for outside) and three firesticks to plug into each tv for the untapped app.

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**List target markets:** Aitkin County and surrounding tourist areas

**List target audience:** Those who love MN craft beers!

**4. PROJECT BUDGET:** in the space below, provide a budget for the entire event.

Category	Grant Funds	Applicant Funds	Total
UnTapped yearly subscription	799 x 2 years		1598
UNTapped monthly user fee for 24 months	49 x 3 months	49 x 18 months	1176
Two 40" Smart TV's inside		198 x 2	396
One 32" Smart Tv outside		148	148
Three Firesticks		49.99 x 3	149.97
Three TV Wall Mounts		17.99 x 3	53.97
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1745</b>	<b>1776.94</b>	<b>3521.94</b>



Contact Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cory Ekan".

Name

Cory Ekan

Date:

5/30/23



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# Application for Aitkin County Business Development & Recreation Grant Program

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

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Mark Jeffers,  
Aitkin County Government Center  
307 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW, Room 316  
Aitkin, MN 56431
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## APPLICANT INFORMATION

### PROGRAM INFORMATION

**Project Name:** Quadna Hills Golf Equipment Storage Building

**Date(s) of Program:** Summer 2023 (completion by October 2023)

**Location of Program:** Quadna Hills Golf Course, 500 Quadna Road, Hill City, MN 55748

**Organization/Community Name:** Quadna Hills Golf Course, LLC

**Person in Charge of Project:** Neal Walker, Bob Hagen

**Organization Mailing Address (Street Name or P.O. Box or Route and Box # and City and Zip Code):**  
500 Quadna Road, Hill City, MN 55748

**Contact Person's Phone #:** 218-403-0163

**Contact Person's Email:** [nwalker512@yahoo.com](mailto:nwalker512@yahoo.com)

**Description/focus/purpose of your organization:** Quadna Hill Golf Course is a 9-hole, par 36 golf course just south of Hill City, MN, is run entirely by a group of 8-10 volunteers. The course is open May 1-September 30 (20 weeks) each year.

### FUNDING:

Amount requested from Aitkin County \$ 2,000  
(Minimum \$100.00, maximum request is 2,000.00). The Economic Development Committee may recommend to the Board of Commissioners to increase or decrease the amount awarded at their discretion. The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners grants the final approval for funding.

Amount of your organization's match \$ 18,000  
In addition to revenue from greens fees to cover the cost of the building, community fundraising is taking place and plans for a golf tournament to raise funds are underway.

Total projected budget \$ 20,000



**PROJECT/EVENT DESCRIPTION: Be concise and complete; attach supporting information if needed.**

During the 2022/2033 winter, heavy snow load caused the collapse of two maintenance/equipment storage buildings, which housed lawn mowers, landscape equipment and golf carts. Photos of the collapsed buildings are attached. It is imperative that this storage space be replaced so that essential grounds and greens keeping equipment area adequately stored during the offseason. It is proposed that a 30'x50' building replace the two destroyed buildings. Volunteers will remove debris and prepare the building site, and construction of the replacement building is included in the cost.



**What do you hope to accomplish, how it will be done and specifically how the grant funds will be used.**

Funds will be used to help offset the cost of a new storage building that will house maintenance lawn/grounds/greenskeeping equipment, golf carts, etc.

**Explain how your project will bring visitors to or provide a positive and sustainable economic impact on Aitkin County.**

Quadna Hills Golf Course is a unique amenity in the Hill City area. The nearest golf courses in Aitkin County are 40-50 miles away, and the nearest courses in Itasca County are 20-22 miles further north. Usage estimates indicate that residents/snowbirds use the golf course approximately 1,000 times per season and visitors/vacationers new to the area use the golf course approximately 2,500 times per season = approximately 3,500 uses per season., etc.

Quadna Hills Golf Course is a significant amenity to the privately owned homes and seasonal rental properties in the Quadna property complex. About 30 condos on the property were recently listed for sale, and having an attached golf course is a major selling point for prospective buyers.

**PROJECT BUDGET:** in the space below, provide a budget for the entire event.

Category	Grant Funds	Applicant Funds	Total
Building materials and labor	\$2,000	\$18,000	\$20,000
<b>TOTALS</b>			\$20,000

Contact Signature: Name: Neal Walker

Date: 5-30-2023

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# Application for Aitkin County Business Development & Recreation Grant Program January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

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Mark Jeffers  
Aitkin County Government Center  
307 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW, Room 316  
Aitkin, MN 56431
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## APPLICANT INFORMATION

### PROGRAM INFORMATION

Project Name: Swanson Park Sportcourt  
 Date(s) of Program: May, 2023  
 Location of Program: City of Palisade, Swanson Park  
 Organization/Community Name: City of Palisade  
 Person in Charge of Project: Sharon DeWitt  
 Organization Mailing Address (Street Name or P.O. Box or Route and Box # and City and Zip Code):  
 P.O. Box 144, 304 Main Street, Palisade, MN 56469  
 Contact Person's Phone #: 218-820-6696, City 218-845-2051  
 Contact Person's Email: ccll@outlook.com, City@frontiernet.net  
 Description/focus/purpose of your organization:  
 To provide a safe and user friendly park for residents and visitors.

### FUNDING:

Amount requested from Aitkin County	\$ 2,000.00
<small>(Minimum \$100.00, maximum request is 2,000.00). The Economic Development Committee may recommend to the Board of Commissioners to increase or decrease the amount awarded at their discretion. The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners grants the final approval for funding.</small>	
Amount of your organization's match	\$ 1,000.00
Total projected budget	\$ 3,000.00

(for Phase 1 only)

### PROJECT/EVENT DESCRIPTION: Be concise and complete; attach supporting information if needed.

Repair and improve Swanson Park Sport Court which includes Tennis Court, basketball court, pickleball courts plus a playground area. This project will be done in several phases. Phase 1 will be leveling and stabilizing the ground. Phase 2, Resurfacing sportcourt and fencing. Phase 3, Playground update.



What do you hope to accomplish, how it will be done and specifically how the grant funds will be used.

Our ultimate goal is to ensure Swanson Park is a safe place for our residents and visitors who frequent it. The funds will be used to level and stabilize the ground.

Explain how your project will bring visitors to or provide a positive and sustainable economic impact on Aitkin County.

Swanson Park is a well-used site for sports activities. Visitors come locally as well as outside of our community. The park improvements will increase the number of people who use it →

List target markets:

Sports Enthusiasts -

List target audience:

City of LaSalle  
Surrounding townships

4. PROJECT BUDGET: in the space below, provide a budget for the entire event.

Phase 1 costs

Category	Grant Funds	Applicant Funds	Total
Estimated cost of materials for leveling and stabilizing ground			\$2500.00
in kind labor, labor			500.00
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>3,000.00</b>

Contact Signature:

Name Sharon M. DeWitt

Date: May 30, 2023

and bring a greater economic impact as visitors stop and buy gas, groceries, or meals at our local businesses, while visiting Pa Lisade.

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# Application for Aitkin County Business Development & Recreation Grant Program

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

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## APPLICANT INFORMATION

### PROGRAM INFORMATION

**Project Name:** Trails Inn Quadna Mountain Motel & RV Campground

**Date(s) of Program:** July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

**Location of Program:** 200 Quadna Mtn Rd, Hill City, MN 55748

**Organization/Community Name:** Trails Inn Quadna Mountain Motel & RV Campground

**Person in Charge of Project:** Shawn Pehrson

**Organization Mailing Address (Street Name or P.O. Box or Route and Box # and City and Zip Code):** 230 Mahtomedi Ave, Mahtomedi MN 55115

**Contact Person's Phone #:** 612-360-0157

**Contact Person's Email:** fireman24mn@yahoo.com

**Description/focus/purpose of your organization:** Trails INN Quadna Mountain is a place where we genuinely care about the comfort of our guests. We pledge to enhance the lives of our customers by providing and creating an unmatched vacation and leisure experience, both in the motel and RV campground in Hill City Minnesota, located in Aitkin County.

### FUNDING:

Amount requested from Aitkin County \$ 2,000  
 (Minimum \$100.00, maximum request is 2,000.00). The Economic Development Committee may recommend to the Board of Commissioners to increase or decrease the amount awarded at their discretion. The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners grants the final approval for funding.

Amount of your organization's match \$ 2,000+

Total projected budget \$ 4,000+

**PROJECT/EVENT DESCRIPTION:** Be concise and complete; attach supporting information if needed.



Website redesign – Currently the website is maintained by GoDaddy and is lacking functionality to book rooms and campsites online. Motel RV Campground - Trails INN Quadna Mountain (link to website)

Marketing and Advertising. Currently no active marketing or advertising campaigns, minus a self-maintained Facebook account that is currently being managed by current owners' son. Trails Inn Quadna Mtn | Hill City MN | Facebook

**What do you hope to accomplish, how it will be done and specifically how the grant funds will be used.**

This will drive revenue to the county via advertising the motel, RV park and campground.

**Explain how your project will bring visitors to or provide a positive and sustainable economic impact on Aitkin County.**

Advertising will bring more customers to the campground, which is underutilized, thus increased visitors to the area.

**List target markets:** The target market will include new guests to the area for camping, RV and motel stays. Our marketing will always be aimed at getting new tourists in the area, ensuring revenue comes into the county.

**List target audience:** Travelers wanting to stay in the area for the businesses, ATV and Snowmobile trails, golf courses and fishing in Minnesota and surrounding states (WI, IA, ND, SD).

**4. PROJECT BUDGET:** in the space below, provide a budget for the entire event.

Category	Grant Funds	Applicant Funds	Total
Advertising	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
Website redesign	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>



Contact Signature:

Name Shawn Pehrson Date: 5/24/2023



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## Application for Aitkin County Business Development & Recreation Grant Program

January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

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Aitkin County Government Center  
307 NW 2nd St, Room 316, Aitkin, MN 56431
2. Funding recommendations will be considered at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Aitkin County Economic Development Committee in June 2023. Application deadline is **May 31, 2023**.
3. Committee recommendations will be submitted to the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners for final approval.

### APPLICANT INFORMATION

#### PROGRAM INFORMATION

**Project Name:** Hill City Fourth of July Festival

**Date(s) of Program:** July 1-4, 2023

**Location of Program:** Hill City, MN

**Organization/Community Name:** Hill City, MN

**Person in Charge of Project:** Tami Meyer, City Clerk

**Organization Mailing Address (Street Name or P.O. Box or Route and Box # and City and Zip Code):**

125 Lake Avenue, PO Box 160, Hill City, MN 55748

**Contact Person's Phone #:** 218-697-2301

**Contact Person's Email:** [cityhall@hillcity-mn.com](mailto:cityhall@hillcity-mn.com)

**Description/focus/purpose of your organization:** The City of Hill City strives to provide quality services to residents and attractive amenities that invite visitors to the community.

#### FUNDING:

Amount requested from Aitkin County \$ 2,000  
(Minimum \$100.00, maximum request is 2,000.00). The Economic Development Committee may recommend to the Board of Commissioners to increase or decrease the amount awarded at their discretion. The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners grants the final approval for funding.)

Amount of your organization's match \$ 17,000

Total projected budget \$ 19,000



**PROJECT/EVENT DESCRIPTION: Be concise and complete; attach supporting information if needed.**

The Fourth of July events held in Hill City are the central community events held during the year. It is estimated that approximately 4,000-5,000 people attend so this event is a vital to bringing residents and neighbors together. Activities during the festival days include, but are not limited to:

- Softball tournament hosts eight teams, 2 teams from Hill City, 6 teams from other communities
- Children’s activities include a bouncy house, sawdust pile dig, street games, turtle races
- Parade, featuring Color Guard, Grand Marshalls, kiddie parade, Majorette’s March
- Flotilla on Hill Lake
- Legion & Auxiliary pork chops and hot dog cookout
- Pancake Breakfast
- Old Settler’s Picnic
- Live music street dances
- Fireworks
- Street vendors
- 5k Fun Run

**What do you hope to accomplish, how it will be done and specifically how the grant funds will be used.**

People living in rural communities like Hill City, Jacobson and Remer Swatara have little access to community events. All people of all ages, backgrounds and identities are welcome to attend these free community events. In addition, rural communities are typically isolated and community events such as this promote socialization and outdoor activity. Several community organizations and volunteers each play their part to make this community event a success.

Grant funds will be used to offset amenities and activities of the festival that are provided for free to the public.

**Explain how your project will bring visitors to or provide a positive and sustainable economic impact on Aitkin County.**

While the population of Hill City is about 600 residents, it is estimated that about 4,000-5,000 people who attend the festival, clearly bringing visitors from outside of Hill City. It is estimated that attendees come from neighboring communities of Swatara, Jacobson and Remer as well as traveling farther from Aitkin, Grand Rapids and McGregor.

**List target markets:** There are events and/or activities available for all ages.

**List target audience:**

**4. PROJECT BUDGET: in the space below, provide a budget for the entire event.**

Category	Grant Funds	Applicant Funds	Total
Fireworks		\$7,000	\$7,000
Live Music		\$3,000	\$3,000
Bleachers, bouncy houses, portables rentals	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$7,000
Supplies for childrens’ activities		\$1,000	\$1,000
Flags, decorations, buttons, supplies		\$1,000	\$1,000
<b>TOTALS</b>			



**Proposed funding sources**

Hill City Fire Relief Association and Hill City Lion's Club cover the cost of fireworks	\$7,000
Donations have historically been provided by Hill City Community Thrift Shop and Moose Willow Sportsman Club	\$2,000
Community Fundraising (spaghetti feed, softball tournament concessions)	\$1,000
Private donations historically received	\$1,000
Lake Country Power Operation Round Up Grant application pending	Requested \$2,000
Essentia Health Community grant application pending	Requested \$2,000
Aitkin County Development Recreation grant application (this application)	Requested \$2,000
City of Hill City fills the gap of any funds listed above not secured.	\$2,000-\$6,000 range
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$19,000</b>

Contact Signature:

Name Tami Meyer

Date: 5-23-2023



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## Application for Aitkin County Business Development & Recreation Grant Program January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

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### APPLICANT INFORMATION

#### PROGRAM INFORMATION

**Project Name:** Adding LED strip lights to canopy and building.

**Date(s) of Program:** ASAP

**Location of Program:** Palisade, MN

**Organization/Community Name:** Palisade One Stop

**Person in Charge of Project:** Kory O'Neil

**Organization Mailing Address (Street Name or P.O. Box or Route and Box # and City and Zip Code):**

307 Main Street, Palisade MN 56469

**Contact Person's Phone #:** 218-820-1207

**Contact Person's Email:** koryoneil@gmail.com

**Description/focus/purpose of your organization:** C-Store/Grocery

#### FUNDING:

Amount requested from Aitkin County	\$ 2,000.00
<small>(Minimum \$100.00, maximum request is 2,000.00). The Economic Development Committee may recommend to the Board of Commissioners to increase or decrease the amount awarded at their discretion. The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners grants the final approval for funding.</small>	

Amount of your organization's match	\$ 1,000.00
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Total projected budget	\$ <u>3,000.00</u>
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#### PROJECT/EVENT DESCRIPTION: Be concise and complete; attach supporting information if needed.

The idea behind our project is to increase visibility of our store to the local snowmobile and ATV trail by adding lighting to our canopy as there isn't any currently. We are two blocks off the trail and are not currently visible to recreational traffic. This would increase local businesses traffic by getting additional customers to notice what our town has to offer.



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**What do you hope to accomplish, how it will be done and specifically how the grant funds will be used.**

The funds will be used to help offset the costs of this upgrade in lighting and visibility to our store. We will be hiring a signage company to come do the installation to our store canopy.

**Explain how your project will bring visitors to or provide a positive and sustainable economic impact on Aitkin County.**

Our project will increase the traffic in the small community of Palisade by upgrading our visibility and curb appeal to recreational tourist traffic in the upcoming season. Any additional traffic would be beneficial to the businesses of Palisade.

**List target markets: Soo Line users.**

**List target audience: Recreational vehicles**

**4. PROJECT BUDGET:** in the space below, provide a budget for the entire event.

Category	Grant Funds	Applicant Funds	Total
Materials	\$1500	\$500	\$2000
Labor	\$500	\$500	\$1000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$2000</b>	<b>\$1000</b>	<b>\$3000</b>

Contact Signature: Kory O'Neil

Name Kory O'Neil Date: 05/22/23