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For Immediate Release

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The City of White Bear Lake is excited to announce the creation of expanded temporary public space in downtown White Bear Lake to accommodate visitors and diners safely. Authorized by the White Bear Lake City Council at its May 26 meeting, this effort is a part of a comprehensive and collaborative approach to “Regrow White Bear” as businesses re-open and public life resumes during the ongoing public health crisis created by COVID-19. This effort is a community-wide partnership between numerous organizations including the City of White Bear Lake, Main Street Organization, White Bear Area Chamber of Commerce, White Bear Lake Economic Development Corporation and numerous local business owners who have generously donated their time and energy to ensure the continued vitality of the White Bear Lake community.

Planning is still ongoing and will include a multi-pronged approach to “regrowing” White Bear Lake stronger and better than ever. This is a collaborative effort, made possible in part by the community’s generous support of the City’s Bear Wear project. Coordination of the Regrow efforts will be spearheaded by Lisa Beecroft of Beecroft Marketing, a local resident and business owner known throughout the community for her leadership in executing successful community events such as Marketfest and Bearly Open.

The first phase of this ongoing project involves the creation of two public spaces for carry-out dining, the Washington Square area between Third Street and Fourth Street and a portion of the parking lot at Cook Avenue and Third Street. Picnic tables custom built for this effort by JL Schwieters Construction of Hugo will provide additional dining spaces for take-out food. The public is encouraged to order take-out from restaurants throughout White Bear Lake and dine in beautiful downtown White Bear Lake or our local parks.

The temporary public spaces in downtown will be open daily from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. beginning June 1st for the foreseeable future. Residents and visitors are encouraged to wear masks, maintain safe

social distancing and respect public dining spaces by picking up after themselves. Temporary restroom facilities will be provided at each site. As a show of support for this effort, residents and businesses are invited to sponsor planters to help create a warm and welcoming environment. For more information on how to participate visit: www.regrow-wbl.com

In addition to the expanded spaces provided by the City, visitors throughout the city can expect to see area restaurants get creative as they expand patios, utilize public right of ways to create parklets and transform private parking lots to accommodate additional outdoor dining.

The City encourages community members to dine and shop locally, and use local services to ensure the White Bear Lake business community remains vibrant. The White Bear Area Chamber of Commerce, Main Street, and Explore White Bear are helpful resources for finding local business offerings. Visit www.regrowwbl.com for updates on efforts to Regrow White Bear.