

City of Battle Lake
Economic Development Authority
Tuesday, May 1, 2025

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in a regular session on Tuesday, May 1, 2025, at 7:00 a.m. with Rich Bullard, Randy Dorn, Rob Nudell, Steve Young, Sharon Casey, and Majorie Quammen present. Absent was Josie Thomopolous. Also present were Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director, and Reba Gilliland representing the Battle Lake Arts Advisory Committee.

Bullard made a motion to approve the agenda. Nudell seconded. MCU Casey made a motion to approve the minutes. Young seconded. MCU Nudell made a motion to approve the financials as presented. Quammen seconded. MCU

Business Improvement Grant Program – Applications were viewed and found that all of the projects were eligible. The total amount requested is \$25,507.65. The commissioners discussed how to fund the projects as the requested amount is more than \$20,000, which is our original budget. The EDA has a fund balance that could be utilized, or should there be a cap of \$4,000? Casey said she can request some funds from LACC to help pay for the project and the Deer Creek Lions have not responded to our request yet. The program did not require a formal bid, just a listing of the proposed project costs was required. After additional discussion, Bullard made a motion to approve all six applications at the requested amount, to work with LACC, Deer Creek Lions or other entities to pursue additional funding. Young seconded. MCU Martin will send out letters to the applicants. EDA would like to see this program continue in the future.

Community Roundtable – Wednesday, April 23rd at Noon – Creative Art Center

- Training was from the Small Business Development Center Staff – Marketing: Preparing for the Busy Summer Season and they will also touch on succession planning. Quammen suggested that this type of training might be more valuable earlier in the season.
- There was a total of about 30 people in attendance and more business owners have been attending than in the past.
- Next Roundtable is scheduled for September 17th.

Update – Habitat for Humanity Subdivision – they have withdrawn their application. The letter stated that they felt the Planning Commission and City Council did not show vocal support for the project and perceived this as a lack of commitment. They will continue to own the property and may consider a project in the future. EDA Commissioners were disappointed in this outcome, especially considering the need for single-family homes.

The Commissioners reviewed the Battle Lake brochure and calendar of events. The brochure is ready for printing and the calendar has some revisions before it gets printed.

Hatchery Row was nominated for a MN State Brownfield ReScape award. Martin and Bullard attended the event on April 17th and Battle Lake received the award in the category of Economic Impact. It was fun to see a project from a small community win the award.

School Updates:

- Construction plans are ongoing with updates available on their website.
- They are working with North Point Professionals to help market/manage student enrollment.
- Chinese Language courses have been reduced, and they are adding an art teacher.
- They have been meeting with Tiny Tykes regarding the Preschool program. Meetings have gone well, and they will continue to work with the childcare center.

Alley Project:

- Gilliland reported that a group of volunteers has been meeting to discuss ideas for the alley next to the Hatchery. The goal is to come together with a project for the businesses to clean up and make the alley look more attractive as there will be more pedestrian traffic with the public parking right there.
 - The City will be repaving the alley this fall so they want the projects to be in conjunction with the construction.
 - Great ideas have come forward and they have a good plan. The volunteers will help the business owners with clean-up and/or painting.
 - Gilliland plans to apply for a grant through LRAC for a mural on the Hatchery building.
 - Annabelle Lee with American Family has some plans to do some projects on her own which will enhance the area.

Active Transportation Grant: Martin reported that the city was awarded the grant for the south loop trail project.

Adjourn at 8:07 a.m.

Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer