

City of Battle Lake
Economic Development Authority
Tuesday, May 10, 2016

The first meeting of the Battle Lake Economic Development Authority was called to order at May 3, 2016 at 7:00 a.m. with Randy Dorn, Don Maslow, Jeff Drake, Janet Ruhland-Schicker, and Milt Paulson present. Absent were Sara Boyum and Leigh Shebeck. Also present was Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director.

Elections of officers were the first order of business:

Martin is not a commissioner but can be elected to serve as Secretary/Treasurer. Motion passed.

Randy Dorn was elected President. Paulson made the motion. Drake seconded. MCU

Janet Ruhland was elected Vice President. Dorn made the motion. Paulson seconded. MCU

Ruhland-Schicker moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Dorn seconded. MCU

The official by-laws were presented. Ruhland-Schicker moved to approve. Drake seconded. MCU

Gordon Hydukovich will be at the May 10th council meeting to present the information on the Battle Lake Housing Study. EDA commissioners should consider attending.

Dinner with Dialogue was discussed and notes from the meeting were reviewed. It was noted that communication can be a key to working progressively together. It was good to see a number of business owners at the meeting including a couple of local contractors.

The EDA will limit meetings to one hour each month. If there is a need to meet longer, Martin will notify Commissioners in advance.

The Commissioners would like to see a project update on the agenda to keep informed on what's going on.

Updates for this month:

- Battle Lake Oasis (New Mexican Restaurant) will start construction next week.
- A number of seasonal businesses are opening in May, along with some new businesses.
- Drake said there will be a question on the fall ballot for a school operating levy but it will coincide with the pay-off of the school building. They are also considering some construction to the entrance of the building for added security.
- Martin noted at a land use site visit, the new property owners had moved to Battle Lake because of the school system.
- Paulson said that the Motor Patrol is looking at alternative sights to the county site.

City council agenda was reviewed – the EDA will get a copy each month to see if they have something they want to weigh in on or share with the council.

- After viewing the agenda, they did note that the Turtle Races are important to keep in the downtown area for the businesses.
- Public parking – discussed the options that the City is looking at. The Kurt Maethner building is cost prohibitive but there are a couple other sites to consider.

Martin will be attending a meeting with the mayor to discuss some future projects for Hatchery Row.

The list of goals was reviewed – the first priorities are:

- Put a loan pool program in place – Randy and Val will work on.
- Redevelopment of older commercial areas.
- Business, Retention and Expansion program in the fall.

Martin will add a page to the City's web-site for economic development.

Drake suggested we do some strategic planning for the implementation of the goals. We will start working on that at the next meeting and he will spearhead the effort. We'll start with the 3 goals that we have decided are the first priorities.

A copy of the business subsidy policy and form will be added to each commissioner's 3 ring binder.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 7, 2016 at 7:00 a.m.

Valerie J. Martin, EDA Secretary/Treasurer/Director