

**City of Battle Lake**  
**Economic Development Authority**  
**Tuesday, June 7, 2016**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in regular session on June 7, 2016. President Randy Dorn called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. with Commissioners 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.

Paulson made a motion to approve the agenda. Ruhland-Schicker seconded. MCU

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

Commissioners discussed Dorn's idea of somehow attracting workers from other areas such as winter vacation spots. It could also be college students that would be interested in coming to work for the summer. If there are no apartments available for rent, maybe there is a VRBO rental or 2 that would work or possibly someone's additional room that could be set up for rentals. The Commissioners felt this was an idea to pursue. Martin and Dorn will work on this by contacting businesses to pinpoint the interest, find out if there are rentals available and also find out the timeline that workers are needed.

**Updates for this month:**

- Public parking was discussed. It appears that a number of the parking issues may be due to public education. The 2 public lots aren't always being utilized and there are a number of side streets that are also available for parking such as next to the community center. Steve Seufert may suggest striping some parking spots to the Council. Maybe a City map showing the public parking areas may be a good way to educate people. It could be included on the web-site and distributed throughout Battle Lake.
- The new meat store is open – they will have fresh and frozen meats and also sell produce from Bluebird Gardens.
- Hatchery Row – Martin has been working with Dan Malmstrom to get a price on the property and if there is interest in selling from all 3 owners. It would be an ideal retail area and there may be some state redevelopment funds available for a project. Commissioners should think of a good idea for the property and if they know of a developer interested in investing. Martin discussed the property with Traci Ryan and the 1<sup>st</sup> step is to have a building inspector go through the buildings. They have contacted an individual to do this and hope to get it done in the next few weeks.
- The City Council discussed the idea of a loan pool program at their last meeting. They were hesitant to approve anything due to past history of the EDA and EDC loan issues. They want to make sure the EDA has some successes before trying to approve this program. Martin and Dorn will continue to work on this and provide more detailed information on a program but will wait a few months.
- NBL at night was held on May 25<sup>th</sup> at the Shoreline. There was representation from NBL and the business community. It was a positive start and they intend to continue meeting once a month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at Shoreline, at least through the summer. It will be run as an additional NBL meeting and we'll see where it goes.

The Council agenda was reviewed. It was noted (also on the EDA agenda) that there is a joint meeting of the Tri-City councils and EDA's on June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Thumper Pond. Commissioners and Council should let Martin know if they plan to attend. The proposed agenda includes an update of the Tri-City efforts, and projects.

A possible program to welcome new businesses was discussed. Martin suggested we think of ways to welcome them. She can compose a letter but there may be other ideas that can help. Maybe we can help them by requesting information about their business such as 3 main areas they specialize in.

Drake led the strategic planning starting with redevelopment of older commercial areas. Time was limited and we will continue working on this over the next several months.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 a.m., rather than July 5<sup>th</sup> due to the holiday.

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Valerie J. Martin, EDA Secretary/Treasurer/Director