

**City of Battle Lake
Economic Development Authority
Thursday, August 3, 2017**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in regular session on Thursday, August 3, 2017. President Randy Dorn called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. with Commissioners Jeff Drake, Don Maslow, Leigh Shebeck, and Milt Paulson present. Absent were Sara Boyum and Gene Kelm. Also present were Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer and Brett Feda.

Paulson made a motion to approve the agenda. Maslow seconded. MCU Shebeck moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Maslow seconded. MCU Dorn moved to approve the financials as presented. Drake seconded. MCU

Visitors:

Brett Feda was present to discuss a possible Eagle Scout project. He is interested in building the information kiosk in art alley along with benches for the opposite side of that alley. He was present to get some ideas from the EDA on how to construct the project. The commissioners were in agreement that the benches and kiosk should complement each other and should be made out of wood. He talked about metal sides for the benches and they agreed that would look good. They also agreed that two eight-foot benches would look nice. The kiosk should be as close to the sidewalk as possible. He should contact Brad Gruss, property owner, for permission to mount it on his building, if that would be the best option. The bulletin board should be enclosed with a lock. He should talk to Steve Seufert about the plan and get his thoughts. Brett will attend the City Council meeting next week to get final approval. Brett will be doing fundraising but requested financial assistance from the EDA if a balance is needed. The commissioners agreed to this.

Updates:

- Tri-City Living minutes were reviewed. Randy Dorn and Doug Bjorklund from First National Bank along with Erik Osberg from Otter Tail County were at this meeting. The group discussed a joint promotional project on social media. The project may include some type of home improvement contest that would be filmed by Erik. They would need to secure sponsors and work out the details at upcoming meetings.
- Hatchery Row project was discussed – a grant application was submitted by Martin to the Blandin's Foundation for the cost of the visioning process.
- An update for the Business Retention and Expansion program was given by members of the team. The team continues to finalize the volunteer list and the businesses to interview. They will complete the final lists at a meeting prior to the volunteer training. They may not have enough volunteers to do all the business interviews so the committee is considering mailing out the survey to some of those businesses. Shebeck said that the DQ would be willing to offer a \$5 lunch coupon for those that return the surveys, dependent on how many and if the committee feels it is a good idea.
- Continued discussion on information kiosks. Other ideas and locations were tabled.
- There is a newcomer's picnic scheduled for September 20th at Lions Park. It will be sponsored by the bank, City and school. Many items for the meal are being donated so the cost will be low. It will be an opportunity to not only welcome new residents but provide them with some general information on the area.
- Council minutes and agendas were reviewed.

Martin informed the council that she had a meeting with a representative of DEED (Dept. of Employment and Economic Development) and they discussed the state's broadband grant program available. Martin contacted Park Region and Arvig to discuss possible grant ideas and their future plans for Battle Lake. Dave Bickett from Park Region called Martin and gave her more information about their future plans. Commissioners agreed that it would be helpful to have Bickett come to an EDA meeting to discuss broadband in general and Park Region's future plans.

Shawn Frank property on Lake Avenue was tabled as Kelm was not present to discuss his idea.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 a.m. Next meeting will be held Thursday, September 7, 2017 at 7:00 a.m.

Valerie J. Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer