

**City of Battle Lake
Economic Development Authority
Thursday, December 5, 2019**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in regular session on Thursday, November 7, 2019. Randy Dorn called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. with Commissioners Gene Kelm, Steve Young, and Don Maslow present. Absent was Darren Kern and Josie Schmidt. Also present was Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer.

Shebeck made a motion to approve the agenda. Young seconded. MCU

Dorn made a motion to approve the minutes. Young seconded. MCU

Shebeck made a motion to approve the financials. Dorn seconded. MCU

Updates:

Hatchery Row:

- Still working on the clean-up phase. No bids will be requested for demo until we know what might need to be abated.

Experience Thursdays in Battle Lake and BL Block Parties

- Shebeck and Martin held a meeting with business owners. Although the meeting was not well attended, several ideas came out of it. There was a firm decision to do the Thursday events again next year.

Connecting with Business Owners:

- There are some surveys that have still not been completed. Commissioners should return what they can by the end of the month and Martin will compile the results of the surveys that have been turned in.
- Kelm and Martin will be meeting with Amy Stearns from Holmes Theater to discuss some ideas on bringing concerts to Battle Lake – possibly in the fall, Christmas and spring. An additional meeting will be held in January, bringing in other interested people.

Housing – How to move forward:

- Martin, Kern, Dorn and Shebeck met with Jake and Nick Troisdahl who are new building contractors to see if they have any interest in developing some of their skills by partnering with the EDA and lumberyard to construct some new homes in the Hidden Meadows area. The group decided that providing possible designs and proposed costs might be a good way to start the project. The idea would be to market two to three designs and providing a general cost estimate. Dorn and Martin also met with Ambrose Everts to discuss their involvement by providing a couple designs and a materials list. We may put up a billboard outside the development to market it. Martin is also going to be checking with MN Housing on submitting a grant application to assist with gap values and affordability gap.

Annual Meeting

- Scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2020, Noon at BL Shoreline.
- Bob Dockendorf will be the speaker – we should give him 20 to 30 minutes and allow some time for questions.
- Martin will prepare “The Year in Review” and that will be part of the program.

The CDA Housing Summit was held yesterday. Dorn, Martin and Kelm all attended and felt it was very positive and provided some excellent housing information.

The County abatement program will start in 2020 and anyone that buildings a new home after the first of the year would qualify for a \$5,000/five-year rebate – whichever comes first. Martin asked the group if they felt a companion program in Battle Lake would be beneficial and would the EDA want to make a recommendation to the council? Hidden Meadows would not qualify unless the new property owner does not qualify financially for the TIF. If that was the case, the lot could be decertified and then added to the abatement. The committee felt it didn't make sense at this point unless another area is developed for single family housing.

Martin suggested a future CDA grant application might be to assist homeowners with remodeling? Maybe a grant or 0% interest loan? 2021 might be a good time to consider this type of application.

The Battle Lake Oasis building will be opening soon as Ashby Brewing Company. They will start with an on-sale license along with food. Once they have completed all the paperwork for a brewery and have everything in line for that, they will be producing at the location and will have a Tap Room for the public.

Next meeting is Thursday, January 9th.

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