

**City of Battle Lake
Economic Development Authority
Thursday, January 9, 2020**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in regular session on Thursday, January 9, 2020. Randy Dorn called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m. with Commissioners Gene Kelm, Steve Young, Darren Kern, Josie Schmidt and Don Maslow present. Also present was Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer. Visitors were Benya Kraus, Lead for Minnesota Fellowship Program and Molly Johnston from the LACC.

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

Young made a motion to approve the following slate of officers: Randy Dorn, President; Leigh Shebeck, Vice-President and Val Martin, Secretary/Treasurer. Seconded by Kern. MCU

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

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

Benya Kraus provided a PowerPoint detailing the fellowship program that Lead for Minnesota provides and how it might work for Battle Lake. Their program is designed to recruit individuals that have a connection to the community and make a good fit with the project the community desires. Training is provided in July with fellows starting in August each year. It is a two-year commitment and fellows are encouraged to remain in the community once completing the program. Some discussion items after the presentation:

- The cost runs about \$35 to \$40 thousand per year but Lead for Minnesota can assist in getting grants and donations. West Central Initiative has been involved in the program and maybe a great resource.
- What would the Battle Lake project look like? That may still need to be established but maybe it could be a partnership between the LACC, EDA and the school. It can also be built with the fellowship program.

The EDA was not ready to commit but said Lead for Minnesota can keep Battle Lake on the map of possible locations. We would probably need to have more planning and 2021 might be a better fit and to consider a program which involves the EDA, LACC and the school. Martin will set up a meeting after the EDA's annual meeting to involve the three entities. Benya is willing to come back to talk with the full group.

Updates:

Hatchery Row:

- Martin reported that the developer is in the process of completing a housing study, layout, budget and demolition costs by the end of January. They will be ready to work with us on the DEED application.
- Martin distributed a copy of the e-mail from the environment engineer. Additional contamination was found, and more drilling will need to take place in order to establish the extend and any type of clean-up plan.

Marketing Battle Lake

- Martin has met with Molly Johnston and Deb Ness to discuss a possible grant application through Lake Region Arts Council for the BL Block Party nights.

- Kelm, Martin and others will be working with Amy Stearns from Holmes Theater in Detroit Lakes to come up with some ideas on concerts/events outside of the summer season – possibly a Christmas concert and a spring concert.

Connecting with Business Owners:

Housing – How to move forward:

- Dorn received five house plans from Everts Lumber. This will have to be narrowed down to two after discussion with the contractors. Martin will check on the fiber line that runs on the north side of Hidden Meadows.

Annual Meeting

- Scheduled for Thursday, February 13th at noon
- Martin suggested that people eat first and we present the Year in Review followed by Bob Dockendorf

Joint EDA/Council meeting to discuss strategic planning for Tri-City Living on January 22, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjourn at 8:18 a.m.

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