

**City of Battle Lake
Economic Development Authority
Thursday, February 13, 2020
ANNUAL MEETING**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met for their annual meeting on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at noon at the Shoreline Restaurant with Commissioners Gene Kelm, Steve Young, Darren Kern, Josie Schmidt and Randy Dorn present. Absent were Leigh Shebeck and Don Maslow. Also present was Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer. In attendance were about 35 visitors for the annual meeting program.

Randy Dorn welcomed everyone and asked for introductions.

Dorn presented the 2019 Year in Review with the following items highlighted:

- Hatchery Row
- Business Retention and Expansion
- Keychains/congratulations for graduates
- Marketing program/Thursday events
- Housing
- Goals and priorities

Darren Kern, school superintendent, provided an update on a couple of items: US Dept. of Education Assistant Secretary will be visiting the school in February. They are very impressed with the school's test scores. Installation of a 6-foot stopping arm on school buses has created a lot of visibility for the district. They are the first in the state to do this and are getting recognition.

Bob Dockendorf, Big Lake Principal, presented on the apprenticeship program that Big Lake has implemented. Bob is nationally recognized for his work on apprenticeships and is seen as a leader on this topic. The Battle Lake School District is exploring the option of starting an apprenticeship program. Big Lake's program has been in existence for several years and Mr. Dockendorf's presentation was very interesting and gave a little picture of how it might look in Battle Lake.

Dorn asked if there were any comments or questions:

- The Battle Lake Childcare Center has implemented the grant program to assist parents with the cost of childcare and have awarded a couple of them so far. They are used to help someone in a difficult financial situation, not as an ongoing solution.
- Patrick Hollister encouraged the EDA to consider enhancing the Hatchery Row project to be bicycle and pedestrian friendly and to keep an historic feel to the project.
- Reba Gilliland thanked Val Martin, the EDA and the City for all the work that's been done and for moving forward in a positive way.
- Dorn congratulated members of Network Battle Lake on eight years of existence. Candace Heathington invited anyone that wanted to attend and Thursday morning at the Shoreline at 7:30 a.m. New members and ideas are always welcome.
- Amy Baldwin, Otter Tail County Community Development Agency, thanked Val Martin for serving on the board and the perspective she provides to the group. Baldwin also updated the group on some of the goals the CDA is currently working on with a huge push on housing. The goal is to build 5000 housing units in five years.
- Kurt Maethner asked about snow removal policies and if the City would consider a different/quicker approach along Lake Avenue in front of those businesses and the post office that are used right away in the morning. Would a pathway be an option until snow

could be removed? Dorn suggested a meeting with Public Works and the businesses in that area. Martin will discuss with Public Works.

- Craig Haukebo and Reba Gilliland asked about attending a public meeting at some point. They are interested in pursuing some ideas for housing, along with John Shaw. Martin suggested the EDA have them attend an upcoming meeting. This will be arranged once John Shaw is back in Battle Lake.
- John Olesen said the Arts Advisory committee is looking for leaders and interested partners.
- An attendee asked about the EDA's monthly agenda. Dorn said that it is usually an update of current projects and new ideas that might be coming up in the future. Martin will post agenda and materials on the City's website when it gets sent to the EDA Commissioners. They meet the first Thursday of every month and the materials are usually e-mailed the Monday before the meeting.

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