

**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, Josie Schmidt and Don Maslow present. Absent was Darren Kern. Also present was Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer.

Kelm made a motion to approve the agenda. Maslow seconded. MCU

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

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

Updates:

Annual Meeting:

- Well attended with good attendance and good content
- Jordan Rasmusson was in attendance. He is running for State Representative.
- Martin will invite Legislators next year.
- Commissioners decided that next year's annual meeting will also be a lunch meeting.

Hatchery Row:

- Martin has reached out to developers but has not received an update.
- Martin distributed a copy of the e-mail from the environment engineer. Borings have been done and he is waiting for the lab results.

Marketing Battle Lake

- Kelm, Martin and others have met with Amy Stearns from Holmes Theater in Detroit Lakes to come up with some ideas on concerts/events outside of the summer season – a tentative Christmas concert date of December 12th has been scheduled. Amy will follow through and see about getting a band that can play at Detroit Lakes and Battle Lake that same weekend. The group came up with the idea of adding a coupon to the ticket that could be used at area restaurants to entice them to come to Battle Lake for a Dinner and a Show.
- A grant application has been submitted to Lake Region Arts Council that would pay for art projects, a talent show, and musical entertainment for the BL Block Parties.

Apprenticeship Program

- Kern was not in attendance to get an update on what the school is doing.
- There was a discussion on the EDA's role in the project. It was the consensus that providing a connection to area businesses would be something we can help with. We'll continue to have the program on the agenda and do what we can to assist.

Information Kiosk

- Most of the project has been completed but still needs to be put together at the site. Martin was informed by the shop teacher that the project will get completed this spring. She will reconnect with him to get another update.

Connecting with Business Owners:

- Martin and Dorn plan to meet with the balance of the businesses and once that's completed, a compilation of the surveys can be discussed.

Connecting with Townships:

- Shebeck has contacted officials and they don't have interest right now, but he will keep communication going.

Housing – How to move forward:

- Dorn has met with Trosdahl's and narrowed the house plan to one which is about 1200 square feet, with a double car garage that penciled out to about \$200,000 which includes the price of the lot. He has sent an e-mail to Jay Paulson to see if he is willing to assist with joint advertising. Young said Jay is willing to work with us on this. Details will need to be figured out and Dorn will meet with Jay soon. There is a need to get a pre-appraisal which will cost about \$400. Martin will also get information from the County assessor on the value they would appraise the new home at.
- Discussion on Good Sam's future plans – it sounds like anything they do will have to be pre-sold before construction. It may be beneficial to meet with Casey Ward to see how the EDA could assist with this project.
- Young said that homes in the process of being built can be listed on the MLS prior to construction.
- Education and marketing are going to be key for future housing. It might be helpful to have an education session led by Paulson Land Company to let people know about the market and what they could do their home to make them more saleable.

CDA – Martin reported and provided minutes from the last two meetings.

Adjourn at 8:11 a.m.

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