

**City of Battle Lake
Economic Development Authority
Thursday, May 5, 2022**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in regular session on Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 7:00 a.m. with Randy Dorn, Sean Belmont, Don Maslow Rob Nudell, and Steve Young present. Josie Thomopoulos and Rich Bullard were absent. Also present were Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer along with Katrina Ball, Casey Love, and Lauren Belmont from Lakes Area Community Center, Reba Gilliland from the Arts Advisory Committee, and guest speakers Tanya Westra, Sarah Schake and Amy Johnson from Otter Tail County.

Nudell made a motion to approve the agenda with additions. Young seconded. MCU

Young made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Maslow seconded. MCU

Nudell made a motion to approve the financials. Young seconded. MCU

Visitors

- Amy Johnson and Sarah Schake from Otter Tail County were in attendance to discuss the Youth Workforce Navigator Program:
 - CDA has had workforce as a priority and started with the on-line jobs' portal.
 - The youth program will focus on building the workforce and to help students be aware of opportunities. They will focus on 16+ age group.
 - OTC just received word that they received \$100,000 grant for student workforce skills. It is a great opportunity to keep moving forward with workforce programming and skills for students.
 - They will partner with schools and businesses to provide opportunities for students to learn and have a summer job.
 - The program also will support work-based learning in schools, working with all industries including healthcare.
 - Nudell discussed some the programs they school currently has and some other programs he would like to see. Nudell also reported that the school career fair went well with the library being full on local businesses and organizations.
 - Dorn said the bank has hired students for several years and also had a student ambassador board that works with the bank, meeting quarterly.

- Tanya Westra from OTC HRA was in attendance to discuss the Hidden Meadows housing project.
 - They are working with Ambrose Everts on the final tweaks of the floor plans so they are in compliance.
 - They will soon be looking at the bidding process. They are considering using "best value" program for bidding rather than the lowest bidder.
 - She has checked with the state on the possibility of collaborating with the school program that builds houses. It did not sound like it would work but she was going to check on a few details.
 - Westra will be connecting with Shannon Terry and Martin to start marketing the project and finding buyers for the houses.
 - Discussed the fiber optics installed in Hidden Meadows that was discovered recently. The property owner of the development is working on this situation.

Hatchery Row

Katrina Ball, Lauren Belmont, and Casey Love gave an update on the LACC.

- Belmont acknowledged the board received the letter from Martin and Dorn which requested they continue working on several items that would help them make the best decision possible. They have been working on a number of items that were in the letter. They stated the short timeline to make a decision on Hatchery Row was creating pressure in the group.
- They have been working with Dan and Lisa Malmstrom on a plan that includes an Executive Director working on all of the events and promotional pieces that have been discussed along with a plan that would include the lease at Hatchery Row.
- The Board is having a hard time justifying the lease at Hatchery Row and how they can cash-flow.
- There was discussion on several items that will help them cash-flow: memberships, fund-raisers, etc. They should also take into account that the new facility is going to be used much more than the current one.
- Belmont has been meeting with some of the business owners to discuss promotion and events coming up. Some of them are not necessarily positive on the need for the space.
- The board will continue working on several items that Dan and Lisa Malmstrom have put together for them. They are also still collaborating with the designer for the inside space.
- There will be a need for a capital campaign to outfit the leased space if the board moves forward with it.
- Several organizations were mentioned that they may want to approach for support.

Goodneighbors continue to work on bids, is completing an Alta survey, etc. in preparation for construction. Groundbreaking still TBD.

High School Student Representative

Business teacher, Janell Kraemer and BPA students are at the national competition and were not in attendance.

Minutes of the Otter Tail County CDA were reviewed.

Upcoming meetings:

- June 2, 2022 at 7:00 a.m. – Next EDA meeting.

Adjourn at 8:15 a.m.

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