

**City of Battle Lake  
Economic Development Authority  
Thursday, October 6, 2022**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in a regular session on Thursday, October 6, 2022, at 7:00 a.m. with Randy Dorn, Marjorie Quammen, Rich Bullard, Rob Nudell, and Steve Young present. Sean Belmont and Josie Thomopoulos were absent. Also present were Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer along with Katrina Ball, Janell Kraemer, Casey Love, Jayde Sharpe, and Rikka Brandon from Lakes Area Community Center, Reba Gilliland from the Arts Advisory Committee and Tracy Brumfield from Leighton Broadcasting.

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

Nudell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Bullard seconded. MCU

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

**Visitors**

- Tracy Brumfield was in attendance to present information about a contest done by Leighton Broadcasting. The contest was online and had listeners vote on their favorite hometown. Ultimately Battle Lake beat out fifteen other communities to emerge as West Central Minnesota's Best hometown. The City will be receiving a granite plaque on October 19<sup>th</sup> when the radio station will be set up in art alley with a live broadcast. There will be a total of six on-air interviews that day. The EDA Commissioners agreed that the following people should be interviewed to discuss how great Battle Lake is – Rob Nudell, Rich Bullard, Randy Dorn, a representative from LACC to promote the upcoming Jack-O-Lantern Jubilee, and two businesses. A new business (possibly Kristin Sawyer-Lyman and an existing business (possibly someone from Everts). The City will also receive one hundred free ads. The EDA Commissioners agreed that the ads should be about promoting the community as a whole with testimonials from:
  - The Childcare Center
  - Police Chief
  - The School – different staff members and student(s)
  - Several businesses should be contacted to do testimonials, with the following suggestions:
    - Vet Clinic
    - Deb Matheus
    - Mike Nauman
    - Good Sam
    - Art of the Lakes
    - Goodneighbors
- Martin will continue to work with Tracy Brumfield on the ads and the October 19<sup>th</sup> event.

**Hatchery Row**

- Several board members of the LACC were present to give an update on their possible move to Hatchery Row. They had a work session with the City Council on September 27<sup>th</sup> and were very discouraged by the outcome of that meeting. The City Council was not willing to commit more financially at this point. After the meeting, the LACC Board contacted Goodneighbors and let them know the outcome of their meeting with the City and that they were not willing to sign a lease yet at this point. Goodneighbors is still willing to keep working with them on moving forward. Bullard discussed the outcome of the meeting and the council not willing, at this point, to commit a larger financial contribution to the LACC. Quammen stated that the council also has to listen to the community and make sure they are spending as the majority of community members want. The council also suggested they approach the townships for a larger donation than what they have contributed in the past.
- Some of the EDA Commissioners were disappointed with the lack of commitment from the City. Dorn suggested the council put together a committee to help the LACC with a community space. They have sold their building with the plan of moving to Hatchery Row, this eliminates funds going to repairs and building expenses. Dorn also mentioned several smaller communities that provide a

community space and he felt it was an important service to provide to the community. It was also not fair to compare this LACC Board to the Boards of the past. They have worked hard on the Hatchery Row project but also on several community events and programs.

- Martin suggested that the LACC, a couple of council members, and Martin work out the details of the contract that would be in place after they move to the Hatchery. She will bring it to the council in November to discuss and ask for a formal vote on it. She also suggested the EDA commit \$5,000 for five years to the LACC contingent on them moving to the Hatchery. Dorn made a motion to approve this. Bullard seconded. MCU
- The LACC Jack-O-Lantern Jubilee is scheduled for October 22<sup>nd</sup>. They are also launching a business promotion about that time called “the heat is on.” People can get a flyer that gets punched when they support local businesses. They have nineteen businesses participating with a prize drawing at the end of the event on November 27<sup>th</sup>. The LACC is working with the students on the flyer.
- We should see work starting at the Hatchery site soon. They have been delayed because of concrete and rebar but this is scheduled to arrive in the next couple of weeks.

#### **Hidden Meadows Update:**

- High Pointe Homes received the bid and will be able to start this fall after the Council finalizes a development agreement with the HRA and the Paulson family. The anticipated selling price for the two-bedroom homes would range between \$225,000 and \$245,000 and \$245,000 to \$270,000 for the three-bedroom home. Otter Tail County will start promoting the homes for sale after the Council approves the development agreement next week.

#### **High School Representative**

- Janell Kraemer introduced student Janie Lhotak to the EDA. She is involved in the BPA program and is in Ms. Kramer’s marketing class.

#### **Former Youth Center**

- The Otter Tail County CDA is still gathering information on asbestos removal and demolition costs before entering into negotiations with Bethel Church for the property. The ultimate plan may be a rental property.

#### **School Updates**

- A homecoming parade is scheduled for Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:40 p.m. Nudell passed out a map of the route and encouraged everyone to attend.
- New roofing will be done on the south side of the school.
- Currently bidding on the gym roof that needs replacement due to storm damage.
- After the new year, work will be done on the heating and ventilation system. Work will be done with existing funds.
- The school board continues to look at their facilities for future updates and needs.
- Enrollment is up 4 to 5 students this year.

#### **Upcoming meetings:**

- November 3, 2022, at 7:00 a.m. – Next EDA meeting.

Adjourn at 8:10 a.m.

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