

**City of Battle Lake
Economic Development Authority
Thursday, November 3, 2022**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in a regular session on Thursday, November 3, 2022, at 7:00 a.m. with Randy Dorn, Rich Bullard, Rob Nudell, Sean Belmont, Josie Thomopoulos, and Steve Young present. Marjorie Quammen was absent. Also present were Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director/Zoning Officer along with Katrina Ball, Lauren Belmont, and Jayde Sharpe from Lakes Area Community Center.

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

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

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

Hatchery Row

Katrina Ball, Jayde Sharp, and Lauren Belmont were in attendance to give an update on The LACC project and possible move to Hatchery Row.

- An update was given on the meeting with the committee from the Council of Bullard and Quammen. Bullard reported that the Council is not ready to financially support the LACC any more than they are now. A number of ideas were discussed that may help the council feel ready to move forward from doing a survey to a ballot question and more. Martin will research what other Cities levy for community centers and the cost of a new building. It was decided that the best way to approach this is for the LACC Board to get further down the road with the project where they can present some possible financials, meet with the Townships to request additional support, and provide a business model for their project.
- The LACC Board members presented gave an update on their status – they have not committed to Good neighbors at this point. Martin reported that Rob Thompson said Goodneighbors have been considering a shorter lease for the LACC, an option to get out early and a donation to them. The LACC Board has not formally received this offer from them but should get it soon and will be able to discuss at their next meeting. They also reported that they received a \$50,000 grant from Blandins to outfit the space at Hatchery Row.

Hidden Meadows Update:

- Construction has started on two of the new homes. Marketing will start soon and Martin will share contact information once she gets it for the realtor and the information for those that are interested in purchasing.

High School Representative

- Not able to attend.

Annual Meeting for 2023

- Date to be determined with February 2nd as a possible choice.
- The Commissioners talked about the location and felt the school might be a great place to have it. Nudell will get back to Martin on possible dates and locations within the building.
- Focus topic of the Annual Meeting will be on the workforce shortage. Martin will contact some of the CDA employees and contractors to see if they can speak on the subject.

Business Priorities – Action Items

- Commissioners discussed the business survey and if another should be done. Martin will have the results of last year's survey for the next meeting with some possible questions for a new one.

School Updates

- Planning is starting for the career fair with some changes. They hope to attract 30 to 40 vendors and have it in the gym. Prior to the career fair, students will do mock interviews with volunteers in preparation for real interviews. Nudell would like the EDA to help market the event.

- A comment was made by Commissioner Belmont that it is good to see the business and school partnership.
- The school will be opening bids for a new gym roof later today.
- The school is working with Site Logic to gather input on future facilities. They are looking for community members to be a part of a community focus group that will meet over the next few months to gather information on the future needs of the school.
- An email will be distributed to businesses and community members with the sign-up information.
- The school is also working on a model where students can spend the last couple of hours of the day working with an area business as an apprentice.
- The group discussed the need for childcare, especially school-age and summer school-age childcare. This might be an option for the school to explore.

Upcoming meetings:

- December 1, 2022 at 7:00 a.m.

Adjourn at 8:17 a.m.

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