

Sleepy Eye EDA Board Meeting Minutes
July 28, 2020 @ Noon, Sleepy Eye Golf Course

Mission Statement: The mission of the Sleepy Eye Economic Development Authority is to maintain and improve the community through the retention and growth of business, industry, and services.

Board Members Present:

Casey Couslon, Kathy Haala, Mark Kober, Gary Windschitl, Mike Carr, Dan Schmid, Joann Schmidt

Advisory Board Members Present:

Kurk Kramer, Christina Andres, Bob Elston, Wayne Pelzel

- A. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Kathy Haala at 12:03pm on July 28, 2020.
- B. Approval of June Minutes: M/S/C Joann, Dan**
- C. Accept Financial Report M/S/C Mark, Casey**
 - 1. RLF Report:** As Written
 - 2. Business Rehab Program:** As Written
 - 3. All Active EDA Resources:** As Written
- D. Approval of Bills:** SBDC Annual Contribution of \$1000 – Kurk reminded the Board that we have had multiple Sleepy Eye business owners use the SBDC in the past couple of years. **M/S/C Joann, Dan**
- E. Reports**
 - 1. EDA Coordinator's Report:** As Written
 - 2. Chamber Director Report:** As Written
 - 3. LSLC Update (Brad Devos submitted):** As Written: Joann informed the Board that they were discussing pay raises and incentives to keep staff and attract future staffing needs. They were also working on a pay raise scale and already looking ahead to January Board member recommendations.
- F. Old Business**
 - 1. Pocket Park Update:** Dirt, retaining wall, and plants are in. Waiting on a some final touches and then Sleepy Eye Sprinkling can connect planters with water lines. Matt Mages hasn't yet decided what to do with outside of the West wall but Kurk expressed the Board's desire to keep the natural look, like that of Veteran's Park.
 - 2. Mages Building Incubator/Professional Space Update:** Kurk asked the Board if they wanted to discuss the possibility of getting involved with the space available on the main level from Matt M. Matt figured he would charge about \$600 a month for the rentable space. The space is not completely finished but should be by end of August. The Board agreed to investigate the possibilities once the space is closer to completion. They would also discuss what role the EDA could play in helping new businesses startup in the space but felt that it was definitely be a great asset to offer potential entrepreneurs. This option would also need to be considered when budgeting for next year.
 - 3. Letter to County Commissioners Update:** Bob informed the Board that he reached out to Sam Hanson with regards to the county owned properties in Sleepy Eye. Based on his conversation, the City can apply for Brownsfield monies without ownership and any cleanup not covered by the grant, the county would then be expected to pickup. Bob talked with Christina about this plan, in regards to the Standard Station and she was in agreement with whatever was going to keep the process moving forward. Bob will still submit a letter to the commissioners for formality sake and so everyone is updated and informed. Sam informed Bob that the other properties discussed would be coming up for auction in September.
 - 4. Cemetery Property:** see attached transcripts. Kurk informed the Board that Alissa has suggested the EDA look to a new attorney in SD to close this property, as the current attorney has been disappointing to deal with and has done little to move this situation forward.

G. New Business

1. **LSLC Request:** Little Sprouts Learning Center is requesting a deferment on the \$100K loan repayment until 1/1/2025. If LSLC is able to begin payments sooner they will. The EDA Board wishes to revisit the agreement in two years, instead of five. The EDA Board upon receipt of written request will defer \$100K loan repayment until 1/1/2023; at which time they will again review the financial situation of LSLC. **M/S/C Dan, Casey**
2. **ECC Providers Informational Letter:** Kurk provided a copy of the letter he sent out to all 56085 Child Care providers informing them of the EDA's financial contribution to their required training class. This will be a conference to be held on September 26, at the New Ulm Civic Arena for completing some of the required training of the providers. Additional items will be provided and lunch at no cost to the attendees.
3. **RCEF:** Kurk again met with Jim Jensen about the Regional Center for Entrepreneurial Facilitation. He is very eager to work with new and current business owners here in Sleepy Eye. He has an office in the New Ulm Chamber and his consulting services are free. (see written handout)

Adjourned: Kathy Haala at 12:52pm

The August EDA Board Meeting will be **Tuesday, August 25, 2020** @ Noon – SEGC

EDA President Kathy Haala

EDA Sec/Treas. Gary Windschitl