

Sleepy Eye EDA Meeting Minutes
August 25, 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: Kathy Haala, Mark Kober, Gary Windschitl, Mike Carr, Dan Schmid, Joann Schmidt

Advisory Board Members Present: Kurk Kramer, Christina Andres, Bob Elston, Wayne Pelzel

Absent Members: Casey Couslon

- A. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Kathy Haala at 12:06pm on August 25, 2020.
- B. **Approval of July Minutes: M/S/C Gary, Mark**
- C. **Accept Financial Report M/S/C Mark, Joann**
 - 1. **RLF Report:** As Written
 - 2. **Business Rehab Program:** As Written
 - 3. **All Active EDA Resources:** As Written
- D. **Approval of Bills:** None
- E. **Reports**
 - 1. **EDA Coordinator's Report:** As Written
 - 2. **Chamber Director Report:** As Written
 - 3. **St. Peter Business Services** - As Written: Joann informed the Board that LSLC would begin getting their lunches from the SEPS Lunch program. Cost was comparable but proximity was more convenient.
- F. **Old Business**
 - 1. **Incubator Space Information Update & Discussion:** Kurk presented information on how other communities run their incubators and expressed that it can get pretty involved. He wasn't sure we would need to be that intense with it. The Board agreed that a small committee of EDA members would look into the specifics and decide criteria and direction for how an incubator space would work best for our available spaces.
 - 2. **Orchid Inn** – Doug Pelzel contacted Kurk regarding Steve Krebs interest in the Orchid Inn property, asking what the EDA had decided. Looking back through emails and correspondence, it was determined that the EDA was still waiting on a detailed plan from Steve with his intentions for the space. The Board agreed that in order to move anything forward a detailed plan needed to be submitted for any further movement on this property. This is a requirement of DEED in order to access any funding for redevelopment, demolition, and asbestos abatement grants or loans.
 - 3. **Railway Advertisement** - Joann inquired if it would be advantageous for the EDA to advertise the Railway property (and possibly the City Limits) in larger metropolitan regions and whether that be print advertisement or through social media. The Board agreed it might be worth the try. Joann was going to look at the best platform to do that through and exactly who should be the entity to do that.
- G. **New Business**
 - 1. **EDA/HRA Housing Discussion** – Kurk presented to the board the idea of our EDA getting involved in HRA. Both New Ulm and Springfield EDA have housing units that help bring in revenue for them and gives them some say as to what type of spaces go up. Kurk mentioned that the Orchid Inn location wouldn't be a terrible spot for something like that to occur, plus they could then use the DEED monies to fund at least 50% of the project both take down and put up. The Board was interested in this proposal. Kurk will also reach out to the property managers from Fergus Falls that had previous interest in Sleepy Eye pre-COVID, to see if this changes things for them as well.

2. **BJ Treehouse Application** – Kurk presented the completed application to the board and advised we move forward as usual. The finance committee will meet in the upcoming days to discuss the best way to handling funding, as the 2020 funding has all been distributed for this year.
3. **Business Proposal/Rob Brandl** – Rob Brandl approached Kurk with a proposal for a Bait Vending system for out at Sportsman’s Park. While the idea is solid, the problem comes with having a private business on public property. The Board thought it would be a good amenity for the park, but the logistics would need to be clarified. This will need to be addressed by the the Park Board as well as the City Council for approval.

Adjourned: Kathy Haala at 1:03pm

Next EDA Board Meeting will be **Tuesday, September 22, 2020** @ Noon – SEGC

EDA President Kathy Haala

EDA Sec/Treas. Gary Windschitl