

Sleepy Eye EDA Board Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2022 – Noon – PIX (SECC)

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: Toby Arneson, Mike Carr, Casey Coulson, Kathy Haala, Joann Schmidt, Gary Windschitl

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

Absent: Mark Kober, Christina Andres

- A. Call to Order & Approval of Agenda:** The meeting was called to order by President Kathy Haala at 12:01pm on May 24, 2022. Kurk noted two additions to the printed agenda: SBDC Funding Request and Housing Abatement Article from the New Ulm Journal. **M/S/C Mike, Casey**
- B. Approval and Signing of April EDA Board Meeting Minutes:** **M/S/C Joann, Mike**
- C. Financial Reports:** **M/S/C Joann, Casey**
1. **RLF Report:** As Written
 2. **Business Assistance Fund:** As Written
 3. **Active EDA Resources Report:** As Written
 4. **2022 EDA Programs Disbursements:** As Written
- D. Approval of Bills:**
1. **SBDC Annual Contribution - \$1000.00** **M/S/C Gary, Joann**
- E. Reports**
1. **EDA Coordinator:** As Written
 2. **Chamber Director:** As Written
- F. Old Business**
1. **Alliance Building Corp:** Closing date set, May 31, Kurk has floor plans and contact information
 2. **DEED Brownfield Redevelopment Conference:** Kurk attended the conference. He recapped the conference content and details
 3. **HRA & EDA Meeting:** No updates to report, meeting date to be set up soon
 4. **Sunset Memorial Park Cemetery:** Kurk is staying in contact with Alissaa Groen as she is connecting with an attorney from South Dakota to review the situation and follow appropriate action for handing over the cemetery to Davison County.
 5. **Orchid Inn Property Proposal:** The interest in the Orchid Inn proposal seems to be waning so the Board has advised that a decision be made on the purchase prior to the June EDA Board Meeting. If a deal is unable to be reached prior to the June EDA Board Meeting, the EDA Board plans to begin the process of working with the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) and Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) to begin the planning to do the Phase One and Phase Two reporting and cleanup plans, look for funding sources for financial assistance in costs for the project, consider redevelopment plans on the property, and any other requirements that need to be completed prior to the demo of the buildings.
 6. **Huey Project:** Kurk met with Rick Mages the day before this meeting and they updated the donation list and amounts which were at \$89,000.00. They also received some updated photos of the work on the helicopter and said that the project is on course for an August delivery.
 7. **China House Cafe & Poppy's Railway:** No update on either

G. New Business

1. **Pocket Park – Corner of Hwys 4 & 14:** Joann planted flowers in the planters on the wall. She said that the property possibly needed some spot areas of grass reseeding.
2. **SE Brewing Coompany Sign/Awning Application request:** Kurk informed the Board that the Sign & Awning Program already had approved financial amounts described in the application, so he just wanted to inform the Board of the SEBC application request for \$862.96 which will be for the two new signs on the east side of their new building. The application was approved as submitted.
M/S/C Joann, Toby
3. **New Ulm Journal Housing Abatement Article:** The Board decided that abatement could possibly be considered, but that other possible incentives could be offered to developers for residential lots that could be easier, more efficient, and less outside assistance needed.
4. **EDA Finance Committee:** The EDA Finance Committee will be meeting on May 31 to review the SEBC Business Assistance Application for the remodeling and construction work they are doing on the patio, deck, and pergola on the new building. A motion was made that if the Finance Committee approved of the application that the full EDA Board also approves and would award the amount of the application request.
M/S/C Joann, Toby

Joann informed the EDA Board that Little Sprouts Learning Center was just recently approved for their 501C non-profit status.

Adjourned: President Kathy Haala adjourned the meeting at 12:43pm

The next EDA Board Meeting meeting will be **Tuesday, June 28, 2022** @ Noon – Council Chambers