

Sleepy Eye EDA Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 23, 2022

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

Board Members Present: Mike Carr, Casey Coulson, Kathy Haala, Joann Schmidt, Gary Windschitl

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

Board Members Absent: Christina Andres, Toby Arneson, Mark Kober

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by EDA President Kathy Haala at 12:03PM on August 23, 2022, at Poppy's Bar Railway.

Approval of Agenda and July EDA Board Minutes: Approval of the agenda as printed.
M/M/S Gary W. & Mike C.

Approval of the July 2022 EDA Board Meeting Minutes: Approval of the minutes as printed.
M/M/S Mike C. & Joann S.

Financial Reports: The Revolving Loan Fund, Business Assistance Fund, Active EDA Resources, and 2022 EDA Program Disbursement Reports were all presented as printed and accepted.
M/M/S Mike C. & Casey C.

Approval of Bills: There were no new bills presented this month.

Reports: The EDA Coordinator Report and the Chamber Director Report were both presented as written. Kurk added to his report that he had applied for a Small Towns Grant from Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) that was accepted, and that the EDA has been awarded \$10,000.00 for the Downtown Revitalization Committee to use on their Downtown Walking Tour expenses for written brochures, window signage, metal benches, and social media costs for promotion of the program. This grant money will be awarded mid-September.

Old Business: The purchase agreements that were presented to Bob Pelzel for the sale of the former Orchid Inn property from the EDA to him, and four of his properties to the EDA did not get signed and are no longer being pursued by either party. Kurk gave the Board an update on the status of the Huey Project and the tentative installation dates of September 6/7, with the dedication ceremony on Sunday, September 11, 2022, beginning at 1:00PM at Veteran's Park. He also informed the Board that he had begun sketching plans for the landscaping around the Huey once it has been installed and that he will be contacting Mike Sprenger from Redwood Falls Nursery to get them involved with the planning, designing process, and installation which will start this coming spring. The final topic discussed was the upcoming 100th Anniversary Celebration of Babe Ruth's Barnstorming visit to Sleepy Eye. This event will take place on October 15th beginning at the Sleepy Eye Baseball Field at 1:00PM and concluding with a program at Sleepy Eye Brewing Company later in the afternoon and evening.

New Business: Since the sale of the Orchid Inn to Bob Pelzel is no longer being pursued Kurk shared with the Board that he had met with the Little Sprouts Learning Center Board and discussed the possibility of LSLC considering the Orchid Inn Motel and Minnesota Room as a possible location. The center area of the complex would be demoed. This would enable what he felt would be a particularly good plan to put together to access DEED grant money for demolition and redevelopment since it included early childcare. The LSLC Board was positive with this idea and will be touring the property on September 8. It will be from that point that we will continue to proceed with that plan or look at any other options for the property or just go ahead and demo it all and then have bare lots to sell. The last topic of the meeting was the Mages Land Company grant application which was submitted to Kurk a couple of days prior to this meeting. He will be meeting with Matt Mages and his banker to discuss the numbers of the project and the request for EDA assistance. Kurk will then get the EDA Finance Committee together to review the application and prepare a recommendation to the full EDA Board for approval.

Meeting Adjourned:

President Kathy Haala adjourned the August 2022 EDA Board Meeting at 12:28PM.

The next EDA Board Meeting will be Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at Noon, at Poppy's Bar.