

**Sleepy Eye EDA April Meeting Minutes**  
September 20, 2022 @ Noon – Poppy’s Bar & Grill

**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:** Gary Windschitl, Kathy Haala, Joann Schmidt, Casey Couslon, Toby Arneson, Mark Kober, Mike Carr

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

- A. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Kathy Haala at 12:03pm on September 20, 2022.
- B. **Approval of Agenda** – with added LSLC update **M/S/C Mark, Mike**
- C. **Approval of August Minutes: M/S/C Casey, Gary**
- D. **Accept Financial Report M/S/C Joann, Mike**
  - 1. **RLF Report:** As Written
  - 2. **Business Assistance Fund:** As Written
  - 3. **All Active EDA Resources:** As Written
- E. **Approval of Bills:** None
- F. **Reports**
  - 1. **EDA Coordinator’s Report:** As Written
  - 2. **Chamber Director Report:** As Written
- G. **Old Business**
  - 1. **Orchid Inn Property** – Kurk informed the Board that he had another interested party take a look at the building and he’d keep us posted on any further pursuit.
  - 2. **Sunset Memorial Park Cemetary** – Kurk presented the Board with a new proposal from an interested party wishing to take over the property January 2023. This new party was concerned about the paper filing & transfer fees and was wondering if the Board would consider covering that cost. Kurk will present the offer to the interested individual and report back at the next meeting. The Board agreed to offer \$10K for a \$1 payment of the property and signed purchase agreement. **M/S/C Joann, Mark**
  - 3. **Babe Ruth Anniversary Update** – Kurk gave an update of the event plans set for October 15, 2022.
- H. **New Business**
  - 1. **Recommendation on two EDA Business Assistance Applications** –
    - a. Matt Mages – Magesland Company request for \$50K **M/S/C Joann, Mike**
    - b. Mark Kober – Sleepy Eye Uptown request for \$17,900 **M/S/C Casey, Toby; Mark Kober abstained**
  - 2. **LSLC update** – Joann informed the Board that the center was struggling. They are trying to find a new director but the search isn’t going well. They are unable to grow because staffing is short. It’s difficult to increase staffing because wages cannot be increased and if they do grow, they are limited in center space. At this point they’re not sure how much longer the center can stay open. Joann is going to look into area childcare franchises to see if there’s anything nearby that would make sense. She also expressed that if the business community and school could somehow get involved that might help offset expenses. She will keep us updated.
  - 3. **Other** – Kurk handed out sketches of the proposed landscaping for Veteran’s Park around the huey location. He also included a sketch for the pocket park at 4 & 14 with the Sleepy Eye name added. The board asked him to look into pricing for the addition; even if the letters are blocked during the winter, they would be seen for the other 8 months out of the year.

**Adjourned:** Kathy Haala @ 1:06pm

Next EDA Board Meeting will be **Tuesday, October 25, 2022** @ Noon, Poppy’s Bar & Grill