

**Sleepy Eye EDA Board March Meeting Minutes**  
**May 23, 2023 @ Noon**

**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:** Kurk Kramer, Wayne Pelzel, Christina Andres, Bob Elston

**Absent Members:** Mark Kober

**A. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kathy Haala at 12:03PM.

**B. Approval of Agenda:** **M/S/C - Mike, Joann**

**C. Approval of April 2023, EDA Board Meeting Minutes:** **M/S/C – Gary, Joann**

**D. Financial Reports Approved as Printed:** **M/S/C –Joann, Mike**

**E. EDA Coordinator & Chamber Director Reports:** As Written

**F. Old Business:**

1. Little Sprouts Learning Center Update: The Board has put their pursuit of a new building on hold for at least thirty days.
2. Kurk shared with the Board the emails with Catherine Haala regarding the 108 Main Street West property. She does not want to sell the property. The Board discussed the timeframe in the closing covenant and the financial responsibility that will be required if the timeline is not met.
3. Kurk reported that he continues to be in contact with the group from Mitchell, SD, considering forming a cemetery association to take over ownership of the cemetery that the EDA owns. The Board has structured and approved an offer to the cemetery association group to consider regarding the establishment of a “Perpetual Care Fund”, other related costs, and a timeline for consideration of the offer in the hopes that the group will take ownership of the property. The Board approved extending the required timeline for the completion of this organization to take place.
4. No update on the status of the next meeting between the EDA and HRA Boards.
5. The Board began to consider a succession plan requirement be added to the Business Assistance Application to begin in 2024. This was tabled to the June meeting agenda.

6. The final topic of old business was continued discussion regarding empty and inactive buildings on Main Street. The Board is continuing to research possible ways to address this situation to act on this problem. A couple of buildings were considered for purchase if the owner is willing to sell. This topic will be on the June Agenda for continued discussion.

**G. New Business:**

1. The Board approved the Sign & Awning Application from Sleepy Eye Electric and will award \$2750.00 to help defray total costs of the project of \$7110.42.  
**M/S/C - Mike, Toby**
2. The Board considered a request to place a memorial bench in Veteran's Park. The request was denied since two metal benches were recently purchased and will be installed in the park upon completion of the current landscaping work being done.

**H. Adjourn:** Chairman Kathy Haala adjourned the meeting at 12:43PM.

The June EDA Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at Noon.

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EDA Chairman, Kathy Haala

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EDA Secretary/Treasurer, Gary Windschitl