

City of Crystal Lake Economic Development Committee
July 26, 2016 – 7:30 a.m.
Municipal Complex – City Council Chambers Conference Room

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Mr. Fowler.

Roll Call/Attendance

Members Affrunti, DeHaan, Leech, Maule, Reece, Saidler, Schroll, and Fowler were present. Mr. Dalzell was absent.

Heather Maieritsch, Economic Development Manager, was present from staff.

Approve Minutes of the June 14, 2016 Meeting

Mr. Reece moved to approve the minutes from the June 14, 2016 EDC meeting as amended. Ms. Maule seconded the motion. On voice vote, members DeHaan, Maule, Reece, Saidler, Schroll, Fowler voted aye. Members Affrunti and Leech abstained. Motion passed.

Public Participation

There was no one present who wished to speak.

Business anniversaries and tour updates

Ms. Maieritsch asked if any of the companies previously discussed have been contacted about the possibility of holding a tour of their facilities. Mr. Fowler said he and Mr. Haleblan are contacting Althoff and it is in the process. Ms. Maule said that Knaack has had a changeover in management and her contact is no longer there. Mr. Fowler said with the change in management it is important for them to talk with them. Ms. Maule said CL Graphics just hosted an open house for their anniversary. Mr. Reece said the owners are usually open to tours. Mr. Fowler suggested that they be moved up on their list. He added that Container International is in the process of moving to Crystal Lake from Palatine and they should be going through the process for building permits for the expansion of their new location. Ms. Maieritsch said she will check into it.

Ms. Maieritsch asked if the members would like a tour to be set up for later in August or possibly September. Mr. Fowler said August will be good. He suggested even a tour of the wakeboard park at Three Oaks Recreation Area and possibly given them a Community Investment Award. Ms. Maieritsch said they have not completed their building and after the restaurant is completed a tour will be scheduled. She added that since they have opened they have had over 1,700 riders. Mr. Reece noted that his 5 year old grandson was the youngest rider they have had.

Organization reports:

Downtown Crystal Lake

Mr. Fowler said raffle tickets are on sale for the gazebo dinner. Also sidewalk sales and Johnny Appleseed will be coming up shortly.

Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Maule said this is the slow time for the Chamber. The Independence Day parade was spectacular and the weather cooperated. She said she is glad the Council approved two video gaming licenses at the last meeting. Mr. Leech was surprised that there weren't more establishments requesting the license. Mr. Reece said this was democracy at its best, presenting information and compromise. Mr. Leech said he is moving forward this week but there are some additional things he needs to do for the State before getting the machines.

Ms. Maule said the Chamber will be adding two additional management sessions this fall and they have been well received.

Ms. Maule said the US Chamber of Commerce has asked them to host a luncheon to honor Senator Mark Kirk on August 19th.

McEDC

Ms. Maieritsch said the annual dinner is October 12th and the key note speaker will be Kevin Lobo, CEO of Stryker. Mr. Reece said that is the company that bought out Sage.

City of Crystal Lake

Ms. Maieritsch reviewed the new businesses including some that have relocated within the City. She added that the downtown area is filled. She also reviewed items that will be in the upcoming City newsletter.

Comments and suggestions from the Committee

Mr. Saidler asked about the gas station for Route 176 and Pyott. Mr. Reece asked about the other gas station at Rakow Road. Ms. Maieritsch said they are in various stages of the permit process.

Ms. Maule asked about the former WalMart site. Ms. Maieritsch said they have had meetings with the owners of the property showing them the possible vision for that area. Mr. Affrunti asked about the current Sears store. Ms. Maieritsch said there is nothing further on that. They have not announced a store closing at this time. Mr. Affrunti said the rumor is that Mariano's is going there. Mr. Reece said that is a good rumor to have, but probably won't happen.

Mr. Affrunti said that Crystal Lake was named one of the top 10 cities in America. He said that is a huge accomplishment and asked why we weren't taking advantage of that information. Mr. Reece said Algonquin is in the top 25. Mr. Affrunti said we should be exploiting it. Ms. Maule said it is Wallethub and not Craines or the Wall Street Journal.

Mr. Leech asked about the company who contacted the Chamber regarding shared work space for businesses. Ms. Maule said they met with the company who was going to charge a fee for their services, their design, and wanted the City to provide a space for them to do this in. She feels there would be a lot of interest in this but there was only "wins" for that company and nothing for anyone else. The college was looking into providing an area like that but she feels it is too far away from a downtown area to be successful.

Mr. Fowler asked what the Committee can do to help Ms. Maieritsch. She said she is still getting to know our process.

Mr. Schroll suggested that for , Joe & Associates, our media consultant, that they set base lines and note what their goals for the year are. Ms. Maule said she had met with them and they are looking for photos from the 1950s, 60s, 70s, and 80s that they can use. They prefer not to use well known historic photos but photos showing various sites in Crystal Lake during those times. Mr. Schroll said they should also be showing current photos of families and their activities which makes Crystal Lake so great. Mr. Fowler suggested that we let Joe & Associates know about Johnny Appleseed and the downtown festival. They can take photos and add them to our Facebook pages. Mr. Leech also suggested Tuesday nights at Main Beach for the concerts.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 a.m.