

**City of Crystal Lake Economic Development Committee**  
**September 26, 2017 – 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. Affrunti.

**Roll Call/Attendance**

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

Heather Maieritsch, Economic Development Manager, was present. Councilman Haig Haleblian was also present.

**Approve Minutes of the July 25, 2017 Meeting**

Mr. Affrunti said there is no quorum. Therefore the minutes from the previous meeting will be voted on at the next EDC meeting.

**Public Participation**

There was no one present to speak.

**I Shop Crystal Lake Update**

Ms. Maieritsch said the followers of I Shop Crystal Lake on Facebook and Instagram have increased. A recent post on Facebook regarding the new restaurant concept at 446 W. Virginia Street received over 25,000 likes. Many are looking forward to Mr. May bringing his food to Crystal Lake. Mr. Haleblian said the parking will be a challenge. Ms. Maieritsch said the City has been in discussions with three business owners regarding off-site parking. She added that 1776 restaurant has acquired property for additional parking for their business. The M Supper Club is also looking into property for their own parking. Mr. Haleblian asked if a parking garage would be feasible. Ms. Maieritsch said staff is researching funds, locations, etc. for a public parking lot in the Virginia Street Corridor that would work for more than one business. They are not looking at a parking garage at this time. Ms. Maieritsch said they were checking into a crossing light similar to what is by Three Oaks Recreation Area on Main Street. The problem with that is the cars don't stop when the light is flashing and the state will not allow it on that road.

**Business Investment Awards and Business Tours**

**Business Tours**

Ms. Maieritsch said the next business tour will be Knaack on Monday, October 2 at 3:00 p.m. They hope to finalize a date to tour Medtronics in November. She asked if there were any other ideas for business tours. Mr. DeHaan suggested Spartan Adhesives on Route 176. Mr. Haleblian said they were recently purchased. Mr. DeHaan said that is a good time to visit the business because of new ownership. He added that they could possibly visit the wake board park but to save that until the spring or early summer.

**Business Investment Awards**

Ms. Maieritsch said Amish Furniture will be receiving a Community Investment award since their outstanding issues are being taken care of. She said they have also added an 1,800 square foot addition to the building so that makes two expansions for that business within the past few years.

Mr. Haleblian suggested giving an award to 1776. They have spent a lot of money to update the restaurant. He also suggested Heartland Cabinets when they are finished with their renovations of their new facilities.

**Organization reports:**

Downtown Crystal Lake

Ms. Maieritsch said the Johnny Appleseed Festival will be Saturday.

Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Maieritsch said that Deidre Martinez in charge of Membership Development will be leaving the Chamber in 2018.

McEDC

Ms. Maieritsch said the McHenry County Economic Development Commission is still searching for a new director. They have interviewed several candidates. Mr. Saidler asked if they will have someone by their annual dinner? Ms. Maieritsch said she believes they will. She added that they are still in contact with the former director, who took a job in the private sector, about various spaces available in the City. Mr. Saidler said it would be nice if the McEDC would give their members an update on how things are proceeding with finding a new director.

Mr. Leech asked why are all of the beaches and splash parks closed when the weather is still so nice. Ms. Maieritsch said as for Three Oaks Recreation Area it's a matter of safety. The college students who were employed as life guards, etc. have left to go back to school for the year. There are not enough qualified people to be able to open the areas safely. Mr. Leech said Lake in the Hills reopened their splash parks. Ms. Maieritsch said that would be a Park District question.

City of Crystal Lake

Ms. Maieritsch reviewed the possible McEDC business nominations. She suggested G & M Manufacturing, Boltswitch, or National Gift Card. She asked if there were any other suggestions. Mr. DeHaan suggested the 3D printer they recently visited. Ms. Maieritsch said she will check into their business size and if they had won previously. If there are any other suggestions to please let her know.

Mr. Leech asked if Mariano's will hurt Joseph's Market across the street. Ms. Maieritsch said there will be more people from outside of Crystal Lake who will be coming to Mariano's and they may not know of Joseph's and try it out. Mr. Haleblan said the Council received two objections regarding Mariano's gas station from the owners of the two gas stations on Route 14 that are now closed.

Mr. Haleblan asked about the former Teddy's site. Ms. Maieritsch said the pending contract has expired but there are three potential purchasers. Mr. Haleblan asked if one would have a drive-through. Ms. Maieritsch said she was not sure but staff would prefer a fast food restaurant to a gas station.

Mr. Haleblan asked about the former Pauly property on Route 14. Ms. Maieritsch said there was an interested party is a portion of the property but the owner did not want to break it up.

Ms. Maieritsch reviewed other business news such as Carlo's Mexican Grill is now open; 1776's renovations are complete; Tommy's on Route 176 will be opening the Fall of 2018; Urban Air Trampoline will be opening shortly, McDonald's on Crystal Point Drive is remodeling; Burger King on Route 14 is closed for remodeling; Walgreens on Route 14 will be adding an optical center; and National Gift Card is expanding.

Mr. Affrunti asked about the former Hines Lumber site. Ms. Maieritsch said it is moving forward slowly.

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Ms. Maieritsch said that 2018 is shaping up to be a good year for Crystal Lake. The in-line Sports Authority has two tenants looking at that space. The K-Mart space may be filled. There is no movement on HH Gregg space at this time but the Mercy Hospital site is likely to add interest to the space.

**Comments and suggestions from the Committee**

There were no comments from the members.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 a.m.