

**City of Crystal Lake Economic Development Committee**  
**October 24, 2017 – 8:00 a.m.**  
**Municipal Complex – City Council Chambers Conference Room**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Mr. Fowler.

**Roll Call/Attendance**

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

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

Mr. Fowler thanked the members for the new starting time. He said Mr. Schroll also requested a change in the starting time but he was at a seminar today and would not be able to attend.

**Approve Minutes of the July 25, 2017 and September 26, 2017 Meetings**

Mr. Affrunti moved to approve the minutes from the July 25, 2017 EDC meeting as presented. Mr. Reece seconded the motion. On voice vote, members Affrunti, Maule, Saidler, and Fowler voted aye. Members DeHaan, Leech, and Reece abstained. Motion passed.

Mr. Affrunti moved to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2017 EDC meeting as presented. Mr. Reece seconded the motion. On voice vote, members Affrunti, DeHaan, Leech, and Saidler voted aye. Members Maule, Reece, and Fowler abstained. Motion passed.

**Public Participation**

Mr. Haleblian said at the last City Council meeting the Council approved a grant for Mum Floral for \$5,000. He asked why they were moving back to Crystal Lake. The owner stated that they had no support from the Downtown Association there and decided it was in their best interest to move back to Crystal Lake.

Mr. Haleblian received comments from a small business owner stating that the downtown area gets all of the perks that other businesses outside the downtown don't receive plowing, maintenance, decorations, etc. Ms. Maule said the business owner choose to locate where they are. The rents in downtown are slightly higher than other locations. Mr. Fowler said Crystal Lake's downtown businesses don't own their parking areas whether in front of the business or in the lots. Ms. Maule said the businesses are required to maintain the area in front of their business – shovel the snow, sweep the sidewalk, etc.

Mr. Haleblian said Naperville is considering assessing their downtown businesses a maintenance fee.

Mr. Reece asked who pays for the flowers in the downtown area. Ms. Maieritsch believes it is part of the City's contract with Countryside.

Ms. Maieritsch said all businesses can participate in I Shop Crystal Lake activities such as the scavenger hunt.

Mr. DeHaan said he can understand that the business owner is upset that tax dollars are used for maintenance. Ms. Maule stated that the City plows and maintains public parking lots and streets which includes Williams Street and Brink Street.

There was no one else present who wished to speak.

### **I Shop Crystal Lake Update**

Ms. Maieritsch said the posting for Plum Garden received over 20,000 likes and shares which is overwhelming. They hope to open in February but there are many major improvements that need to be completed. There have been meetings with the owner and City representatives from Building, Police, and Fire. Ms. Maule asked about parking. Ms. Maieritsch said the owners have talked with both Andy's and the attorney and they believe they have parking figures out. Ms. Maieritsch added that The City has also talked with the M Supper Club regarding parking.

### **Business Investment Awards and Business Tours**

#### **Business Tours**

Ms. Maieritsch said the next business tour will be Medtronics, but they have not received a date. She said if November is not good for Medtronics, she may move up the Precision Water Jet tour to November.

Ms. Maieritsch said they have met with Knaack regarding the purchase of additional property around their existing facility. During the most recent tour they mentioned how hard it is to find a qualified workforce and has been working with MCC. Ms. Maieritsch said manufacturing is not like it used to be. It's not the dirty, dingy work area from the past. Now high schools are showing other options to their students other than college. Mr. Leech said we need to continue to connect the potential industrial uses to MCC. Ms. Maule said the college is currently working on that. Mr. Leech said they need to have a person work for a company and they send their employee to school. He asked if there is any funding available for this to happen. Ms. Maule said G & M and Black Diamond do this now. She added that businesses need to start talking to students in junior high not wait until they are juniors in high school.

Ms. Maieritsch said even if the kids want to go into this type of work, the parents sometimes push them to go to college and get a degree. Mr. Fowler said they need to change to the school environment. Ms. Maule said there needs to be a County-wide focus. For example there three culinary programs in a small area when there only needs to be one and each could use the same facility. Ms. Maule added that there is a 6-week intern program at Prairie Ridge for retail and manufacturing jobs. Many of the parents say they don't want their kids to do that type of work. Mr. Reece said they also need to be careful with the age of the students for any manufacturing jobs.

Mr. Fowler asked if inviting Steve Olsen, Acting Superintendent for District 155, to a future meeting would help.

Ms. Maule said there will be a Workforce Network panel discussion on November 7, 2017 at 7:30 a.m. at Park Place.

#### **Business Investment Awards**

Ms. Maule asked if investment awards had been given to Aldi, G & M and Willow Creek. Ms. Maieritsch said she would check.

### **Organization reports:**

#### **Downtown Crystal Lake**

Mr. Fowler said good things are happening downtown. The Johnny Appleseed event was well attended.

Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Maule said they are in the middle of Community Harvest and the kick off will be tonight at the Food Pantry.

McEDC

Ms. Maieritsch said the McEDC Board hoped to announce their new President at their annual dinner on November 7 but that will no longer be the case.

Ms. Maule said the Chamber has three seats available for the McEDC dinner at their table if anyone is interested.

City of Crystal Lake

Ms. Maieritsch said there are many new businesses coming to Crystal Lake and many existing businesses that are reinvesting. She reviewed the businesses that are coming to Crystal Lake and several who are remodeling. She added that in the next few months they hope to have positive movement on the former K-Mart space. Also the owners of Crystal Point have had discussions with the City about a possible tenant for a port of the former Sports Authority space. It will be divided into three spaces. The City Staff has also had discussions with people interested in the stand alone former Sports Authority but there is no contract on that space.

**Comments and suggestions from the Committee**

Mr. Reece asked if 1776 received an investment award. Ms. Maieritsch said there were several outstanding items in their remodel which put off the award. She will check on how that is progressing.

Mr. Fowler asked for a listing of completed business building permits for the past year so they can determine if an award should be presented.

Mr. Leech mentioned that he had posted a question on Facebook asking what is missing in Crystal Lake. Some of the answers are interesting.

There were no other comments from the members.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.