

City of Crystal Lake Economic Development Committee
December 5, 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. Reece.

Roll Call/Attendance

Members Affrunti, Maule, and Reece were present. Mr. Fowler arrived at 8:10 a.m. Members DeHaan, Leech, Saidler, and Schroll were absent.

Heather Maieritsch, Economic Development Manager, was present.

Approve Minutes of the October 24, 2017 Meeting

Mr. Reece stated there is no quorum present. Therefore the approval of the minutes will be tabled until the next meeting - January 23, 2018.

Public Participation

There was no one present who wished to speak.

I Shop Crystal Lake Update

Ms. Maieritsch said the program is going well and gaining followers. She noted that Instagram is growing in popularity slower than Facebook but that is to be expected. Ms. Maule suggested contacting the high schools since their business classes are always looking for projects and creating a competition to create an I Shop Crystal Lake promotional video would benefit everyone.

Mr. Fowler arrived at this time.

Business Investment Awards and Business Tours

Business Investment Awards

Ms. Maieritsch said she will be creating an up to date list of suggested businesses to give awards to in 2018. So far the list includes Amish Furniture, 1776, The Quarry, Willow Creek, Aldi, and Sunset Logistics. If the members have any other suggestions to please let her know.

Ms. Maieritsch said Lidel is rapidly growing in the United States. It is similar to Aldi but more comparable to the shopping experience of a Wal Mart and will impact consumers grocer store behavior. Also Mariano's is still planning to open April 2018.

Business Tours

Ms. Maieritsch reviewed the list of possible business tours for the beginning of 2018. Mr. Fowler asked if a thank you was sent to Cardinal and Knaack. Ms. Maieritsch believes they were sent but will check. Mr. Fowler said Cardinal was interested in a rail spur and has a meeting today at 2:30 to review the history of the spur line. He has also reached out to Container Corp. who previously expressed interested in a rail spur for their business.

Organization reports:

Downtown Crystal Lake

Mr. Fowler said the holiday lights parade was well attended. Mr. Reece said the weather was good. Ms. Maule said Diana Kenney does a wonderful job with the events downtown. She also limits the number of entries in the parade so that it is not too long.

Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Maule said they will be hosting a forum with Representative Skillacorn on Wednesday which will include an update on the veto session.

Ms. Maule added that they have hired a new staffer who is currently being trained. The Leadership in Action program will start in January and their new mobile app will be launched in January to the members and later to the community. Also the Community Harvest event and food-drive went very well again this year.

McEDC

Ms. Maule said the Board is close to making a decision on the new director. They received more than 80 applications and they hope to make the announcement at their annual meeting on January 12.

Ms. Maule added that there are grants for internships that are available but not many take advantage of them. Mr. Reece said that the State representatives are begging people to take the grants, but believes many companies are concerned there are strings attached to their grants. He has used the grants in the past and they have worked out well for his business. Also the programs are already written and only have to be followed. Ms. Maule said the Chamber will be contacting companies to let them know what grants are available and how to find out about them. They are not just for manufacturing jobs. She has contacted the new editor of the Northwest Herald about doing a series on job opportunities in the County.

City of Crystal Lake

Ms. Maieritsch said National Gift Card is expanding and will double their size after the renovation is complete.

Ms. Maieritsch said Mercyhealth is moving forward, Urban Air will be opening in the spring, and 1776 Restaurant has purchased property for a parking and is adding on a vestibule. Also there is a contract on former K-Mart space, as well a tenant for half of the former Sports Authority space in Crystal Point Shopping Center.

Ms. Maule said she heard that Dukes will be closing after the holidays. Ms. Maieritsch said they will be closing temporarily in mid-January to remodel their kitchen and will be reopening in February.

Ms. Maieritsch said there are two manufacturing companies in Crystal Lake who will be expanding their facilities and remain in Crystal Lake. Mr. Affrunti said all of the signs indicate 2018 will be a booming year.

Ms. Maule added that the Chamber's Expo will be moving to Lundahl and will be held February 17 & 18, 2018.

Comments and suggestions from the Committee

There were no comments from the members.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.