

City of Crystal Lake Economic Development Committee
August 28, 2018 – 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, DeHaan, Maule, Rainwater, Saidler, Schroll, and Reece were present. Ms. Maule arrived at 8:09 a.m. and Mr. Fowler arrived at 8:10 a.m. Mr. Leech was absent.

Heather Maieritsch, Economic Development Manager, was present.

Approve Minutes of the July 24, 2018 Meetings

Mr. Affrunti moved to approve the minutes from the July 24, 2018 meeting as presented. Mr. Saidler seconded the motion. On voice vote, members Affrunti, Reece, and Saidler voted aye. Members DeHaan, Rainwater, and Schroll abstained. Members Maule and Fowler had not arrived yet. Motion passed

Public Participation

There was no one present who wished to speak.

I Shop Crystal Lake Update

Ms. Maieritsch said the company is changing but the company continues to work with us until the contract expires. Once the current contract is over we will be searching for a new company.

Business Investment Awards and Business Tours

Events and Ribbon Cutting

Ms. Maieritsch said the ground breaking for Camfil is today at 11:00 a.m. There is also a ribbon cutting for Cowork Crystal Lake at 4:00 p.m. There will be two business anniversaries recognized at the September 18 City Council meeting – Douglas Automotive is 25 years and Curran Group is 100 years. She added that there will be an open house and tour of their facilities the first week of September.

McHenry County Economic Development Business Nominees- 2019 Business Champion

Ms. Maieritsch said the MCEDC hosts an annual banquet and awards. There are four different categories based on the size of the business.

Ms. Maule arrived at this time.

Ms. Maieritsch said the City tries to nominate one business for each category.

Mr. Fowler arrived at this time.

Ms. Maieritsch suggested Precision Water Jet, Autotrol, Camfil, and Aptar. She said if the members had any other suggestions to contact her before August 31.

Mr. Fowler suggested that the EDC do a publicity push for the businesses that we have nominated and possibly congratulate the businesses in the City newsletter.

Mr. Reece moved to approve the recommended business nominations of Precision Water Jet, Autotrol, Camfil, and Aptar for the MCEDC Business Champion Awards. Mr. Affrunti seconded the motion. On voice vote, all members voted aye. Motion passed.

Organization reports:

Downtown Crystal Lake

Mr. Rainwater said Johnny Appleseed is coming up and is very well attended. Also Ladies Night will be coming up on October 11th. There are a few buildings for sale in the downtown area which means that there will be a new energy in the area. Currently the existing owners work well together for the interest of the downtown. He added that there has been a request made to move the McHenry County Living car show from Park Place back to the downtown area. There are many business owners who are not in favor of that move. Mr. Fowler said there was a suggestion that the show be held in the Metra parking lot.

Mr. Rainwater said the Farmers' Market is held on Saturdays until the end of October. They have brought in new products this year and several new vendors. They hope to add new items in the future such as entertainment.

Mr. Rainwater stated that Diana Kenney, Executive Director of the Downtown Main Street, now has help with the special events. Downtown Main street recently hired Erin Weingart who is working part-time to assist with current events and help bring new ideas to our downtown.

Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Maule said the Chamber has entered into an agreement with Office Depot for special discounts for Chamber members. There are new discounts every month.

Ms. Maule said they have held two candidate events and there is one scheduled for next week. She is working on hosting a candidate forum for the candidates running for Governor but are having a hard time getting dates from the groups so she can find a location for the event.

Ms. Maule said they will be hosting a "boot camp" for businesses. It will have five "refresher" classes. All of the classes can be taken or individuals can pick a few. She added that the Chamber now has a mobile app.

Ms. Maule said Districts 155 and 47 will be hosting an open house on October 4 with Camfil, General Kinomatics and other Crystal Lake manufacturers for students and their families to discover more about manufacturing related jobs as an alternative and/or in conjunction with attending College. Ms. Maieritsch said she will try to get this into the City's newsletter.

Ms. Maule said now both Prairie Ridge and Crystal Lake Central have incubator programs but they are not coordinating them through the district. She has a meeting with Steve Olson, Superintendent of District 155, next week.

City of Crystal Lake

Ms. Maieritsch introduced Brett Rainwater, the newest member of the EDC. The members welcomed Mr. Rainwater to the Committee.

Ms. Maieritsch said the railroad crossing on Crystal Lake Avenue will be closed for repair. She said it will be open prior to the Johnny Appleseed event downtown. Staff has also met with two manufacturing companies – one is interested in moving to Crystal Lake and the other is interested in expanding. Also the former Hines

Lumber site on Crystal Lake Avenue and Main Street was up for auction. She has not heard back from the bank regarding the status of the bids. Ms. Maieritsch said the 7-11 and gas station is moving forward as well as Popeye's, TJ Maxx, and Steinhafels. She added that there is a Letter of Intent for the former Boston Market building. One of the draw backs was it was for lease and not for sale. Also, Colonial on Route 14 has closed and is for sale. Staff has reached out to several businesses who were interested in locations on Route 14. The former Pauly Toyota site was sold last week. There will be a fast casual restaurant there. The former stand-alone Sports Authority is also under contract pending City approvals for an entertainment venue.

Comments and suggestions from the Committee

There were no comments from the members.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.