

**City of Crystal Lake Economic Development Committee**  
**December 4, 2018 – 8:00 a.m.**  
**Municipal Complex – City Council Chambers Conference Room**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m. by Mr. Fowler.

**Roll Call/Attendance**

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

Heather Maieritsch, Economic Development Manager, was present.

**Approve Minutes of the October 23, 2018 Meetings**

Mr. Fowler stated there was no quorum present and the minutes will be reviewed at the January 22, 2019 meeting.

**Public Participation**

There was no one present who wished to speak.

**I Shop Crystal Lake Update**

Ms. Maieritsch said the new consultant, Think Big Go Local (TBGL), has been on the job for under a month. They will attend the next EDC meeting. The new consultant brought fresh ideas and photos for their postings.

**Business Investment Awards and Business Tours**

**Events and Ribbon Cutting & Business Tours**

Mr. Fowler said he was very impressed with Camfil when the City presented them with the McEDC award. They have a very impressive story to tell and we need to help share their story. He also suggested the plant manager be nominated for a Women of Distinction award. She is amazing. Ms. Maule said she will send Ms. Maieritsch a packet.

Mr. Fowler suggested touring the business that is in the former Food Warming building just to see how they are doing. He asked if Rita Corporation is expanding since they had mentioned possible expansion during a business tour a few years ago. Ms. Maieritsch said staff has been in contact with them but they have not taken the next step in expanding.

Ms. Maieritsch said the City typically presents Investment awards in the first quarter of the year. She asked that if there are any candidates to please let her know.

**Organization reports:**

**Downtown Crystal Lake**

Ms. Maieritsch said the businesses in the Downtown report that Small Business Saturday was very successful. In particular, the newest businesses that moved in a few days earlier had record sales at their Crystal Lake location.

Ms. Maule said the parade was a success and there were new floats this year.

**Chamber of Commerce**

Ms. Maule said they will be launching a new app that will post new businesses, school closings, traffic issues and events within the community. She asked that the information be included in the City's newsletter. This app was developed for the Crystal Lake Chamber and is a beta test for the nation.

Ms. Maule said on December 11 there will be a coffee at Park Place to meet the new legislators. In Springfield, she has been informed the legalization of marijuana is almost finalized. Employers need to be informed and prepared to understand the implications of this and how it will impact their company. Also in Springfield, there are two bills pending to increase the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. This will have a significant impact and Illinois will have the highest minimum wage in the Country. Mr. Saidler said they have employees that are close to the new minimum wage who are already asking for a raise. Ms. Maule said they had suggested that this increase be staged over a few years but neither bill includes that provision. Mr. Saidler said if it is raised it pushes everyone up.

Ms. Maule discussed the workflow programs in the County, including the addition of the metal works program at Cary-Grove High School. The district wants other businesses to invest in the District's program. Mr. Fowler suggested the EDC meet with District 155 to better understand the school program.

#### MCEDC

There was no report.

#### City of Crystal Lake

Ms. Maieritsch provided the members with a summary of 2018. She stated that Pablo's will be closing its current location and they are looking at a site at Routes 31 and 176. The owners of the center will be looking to lease the current space to another restaurant. She added that Plum Garden has also closed due to unforeseen circumstances.

Ms. Maule asked if the City knew about the new owners of Jasters. Ms. Maieritsch said she will check with the City Manager's Office regarding a liquor license change.

Ms. Maieritsch reviewed other additions such as Pizza Hut opening a carry-out restaurant later this month. Also, the former Pauly Toyota site is under contract for 2 fast casual restaurants and a retailer. City staff is also working with Barnes and Noble on a new site within the City. They are looking for a space that is owned by IRC who owns the Crystal Point Shopping Center and the Bohl Farm Marketplace Center where they are currently located.

#### Comments and suggestions from the Committee

There were no comments from the members.

#### Adjourn

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