

City of Crystal Lake Economic Development Committee
September 24, 2019 – 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, Leech, Saidler, and Reece were present. Mr. Schroll arrived at 8:25 a.m. Members Rainwater and Fowler were absent.

Heather Maieritsch, Economic Development Manager, was present from staff. Jackie Ruiz, Acting President of the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce was also present.

Approve Minutes of the August 27, 2019 Meetings

Mr. Affrunti moved to approve the minutes from the August 27, 2019 EDC meeting. Mr. Saidler seconded the motion. On voice vote, members Affrunti, DeHaan, Saidler, and Reece voted aye. Mr. Leech abstained and Mr. Schroll had not arrived yet. Motion passed.

Approve the Economic Development Committee meeting dates for 2020

Mr. DeHaan moved to approve the EDC meeting dates for 2020 with the removal of the meeting on March 24, 2020. Mr. Affrunti seconded the motion. On voice vote, all members voted aye. Motion passed.

Public Participation

There was no one present who wished to speak.

I Shop Crystal Lake Update

Ms. Maieritsch said the contract with the I Shop consultant will be expiring. There is a provision in the contract to extend it for one additional year, which is recommended by staff. We will revisit the contract next year. The followership has continued to grow and staff is pleased with their work.

Business Anniversaries and Business Tours

Ms. Maieritsch said Camfil will be holding their ribbon cutting and tour tomorrow. At that time we will present them with the Community Investment award. Ms. Maieritsch added that a tour with Chicago Plastics will be scheduled for October.

Ms. Maieritsch said if anyone knows of any business celebrating anniversaries of 25 years or more to please let her know. The City Council typically makes anniversary awards in the fall and spring.

Organization reports:

Downtown Crystal Lake

Ms. Maieritsch said Johnny Appleseed will be held this Saturday. She added that Carlos currently owns both the restaurant downtown and the one on Route 14. The Route 14 location is in the process of being sold.

Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Ruiz said the Chamber is currently seeking a new President. They hope to have interviews in October and the new President to start in December. Next year's Expo will be one day only – Saturday. They will be including pet adoption, as well as having different games to play.

Ms. Ruiz said they will be holding the “Made in my own back yard” again this year. It will be held on two days – October 4 will be during the day and October 10 will be in the evening. This is hosted by local businesses and the school district. Also the Chamber will be hosting a business lunch with a presentation regarding the new laws that will impact local businesses. Next year’s State of the Community is tentatively set for February 6. They will finalize the date with the Mayor and Crystal Lake Country Club.

MCEDC

Ms. Maieritsch said the MCEDC Board and Visit McHenry County held a joint meeting to discuss the rebranding. The groups were undecided. Additional comments were being taken via e-mail, changes will be made to the presentation, and the revised ideas will be shared with the groups in the future.

Ms. Maieritsch said the awards dinner will be November 5 at the Holiday Inn.

City of Crystal Lake

Ms. Maieritsch said there has been a lot of activity recently. The ICSC Dealmaking event will be held at Navy Pier and she has several appointments with businesses who are interested in Crystal Lake. The former Five Below outbuilding has two tenants interested and they will be seeking approval at an upcoming Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. The building at 800 COG Circle is moving forward with a fitness use and they are working with the purchaser of the former Pauly Toyota site on possible tenants. They are also working with Discount Tire on a new location on Route 14.

Ms. Maieritsch said Brixmor is moving forward and revamping some vacant spaces to “vanilla boxes” in hopes of attracting new tenants. She added that Play it Again Sports will be moving to another location in the same shopping center.

Ms. Maieritsch reviewed the new businesses that are now open in Crystal Lake.

Comments and suggestions from the Committee

Mr. Affrunti asked about the PUD Overlay for the area around Three Oaks Recreation Area. Ms. Maieritsch said the overlay will require a public hearing before the Planning and Zoning Commission and approval from the City Council. Mr. Leech asked if housing was included in the vision. Ms. Maieritsch said Crystal Court is being marketed as a site ready for a mixed use development, which includes housing.

Mr. Saidler asked about recreational cannabis. Ms. Maieritsch said it will be going to City Council on October 1.

Mr. Schroll arrived at this time.

Mr. Affrunti asked about Merlin’s. Ms. Maieritsch said they have recently come in for a building permit.

Mr. Affrunti asked about Plum Garden and Jasters. Ms. Maieritsch said there is interest in the former Plum Garden and Jasters sites but nothing formal yet.

There were no other comments from the members.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m.