

City of Crystal Lake Economic Development Committee
October 22, 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, Rainwater, and Reece were present. Mr. Fowler arrived at 8:35 a.m. Members Leech and Saidler were absent. Mr. Schroll resigned from his position on the Committee.

Heather Maieritsch, Economic Development Manager, was present from staff.

Mr. Reese said there is no quorum at this time and tabled the approval of the previous meeting minutes.

Public Participation

There was no one present who wished to speak.

Economic Development Committee meeting day and time discussion

Ms. Maieritsch said there was further discussion after the last meeting about the meeting day, dates, and times for the EDC meetings in 2020. They sent out a survey to the members and only a few responded. Mr. Reece suggested it be sent out again. Mr. Maieritsch said she is trying to determine if another day is better for the Committee members.

The members felt that Tuesday works better for their schedule. Mr. Affrunti said the earlier in the day the better for this schedule. Others agreed.

Ms. Maieritsch said there is a possibility to cut back the number of meetings for next year. They could always add a special meeting if it is needed. The members agreed.

I Shop Crystal Lake Update

Ms. Maieritsch said the contract for the consultant was renewed for an additional year. They are doing a good job with our media presence.

Business Anniversaries and Business Tours

Ms. Maieritsch said a tour with Chicago Plastics is this afternoon. The Community Investment Award will be presented at that time.

Organization reports:

Downtown Crystal Lake

Mr. Rainwater said Johnny Appleseed was recently held. It was cold and wet in the morning and the weather got better as the day went on but the weather didn't keep people from coming. The Downtown Association holds an annual Gazebo Dinner fundraiser. This was the last year for that event. They are discussing new Community Dinner event to replace the gazebo event so more of the community would have an opportunity to participate. Other communities have done something similar and the Downtown Association has been in contact with them to get more information. Mr. Rainwater said they are putting together an entertainment budget for the Farmers Market for next year because they found when there are activities for kids people linger downtown longer.

Mr. Rainwater said they have also put together a brochure to generate interest in joining the Downtown Association. He said about half of the businesses are not members.

Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Reece said phone interviews were done last night for the new President of the Chamber. They received 28 applications and the Board will be holding the face to face interviews in the next few weeks.

Ms. Maieritsch said the Chamber's Expo for next year will be one day – March 28.

Mr. Reece said there will be many new staff members at the Chamber.

Mr. Reece said there was a "Manufacturer's Day" held recently. It was a two day event – one event during the day and the other in the evening. It was well attended. He said that a trade magazine has an article about "Manufacturer's Day" and he will send it to Ms. Maieritsch.

Ms. Maieritsch said the City worked with the Downtown Association on an article about Small Business Saturday which will be in the Chamber's November publication.

MCEDC

Ms. Maieritsch said the campaign was presented to the Board and feedback was provided to the consultant.

Mr. Fowler arrived at this time.

City of Crystal Lake

Ms. Maieritsch said she recently attended a seminar in Indianapolis put on by the International Economic Development Council. She also attended the ICSC Dealmaking event at Navy Pier. They met with several companies who are interested in Crystal Lake.

Ms. Maieritsch said Five Below has relocated to their new space behind their former outbuilding. That outbuilding will have three tenants – McAlister's, Freddy's, and another tenant to be determined at a later date. She added that The Edge Fitness will be opening in the spring in the former Sports Authority building. There are also several new businesses opening such as Indian Spice, Holiday envy, and Spartan Axe Throwing.

Mr. Reece asked how Popeye's was doing. Ms. Maieritsch said they are doing very well in this location.

Mr. Fowler asked if the EDC should present Community Investment Awards to Target and Five Below for their renovations. Ms. Maieritsch said she would look into it.

Mr. DeHaan asked about Carlo's Pancake House. Ms. Maieritsch said they are a popular breakfast place. She added that the owners of Jaster's on Route 14 are in the process of finalizing a lease for a restaurant. Café Olympic at the corner of Williams and Woodstock has changed ownership.

Mr. Fowler asked about the redevelopment for the former Immanuel Lutheran Church and School on McHenry Avenue. Ms. Maieritsch said they are being reviewed as a conceptual request.

Mr. Reece said there is a quorum at this time so the previous meeting minutes can be voted on.

Approve Minutes of the September 24, 2019 Meetings

Mr. DeHaan moved to approve the minutes from the September 24, 2019 EDC meeting. Mr. Reece seconded the motion. On voice vote, members Affrunti, DeHaan, Reece, and Fowler voted aye. Mr. Rainwater abstained. Motion passed.

Comments and suggestions from the Committee

Mr. Fowler asked if Pingry Place was moving forward. Ms. Maieritsch said it is a slow process but they are moving forward.

Mr. Affrunti said there is a growing interest in residential in the downtown area.

Mr. Fowler asked if the Committee discussed meeting dates and times. Ms. Maieritsch reviewed the previous discussion.

There were no other comments from the members.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.