

Crosslake Economic Development Authority
Crosslake City Hall
Agenda: January 8, 2020 8:30 A.M.

Mission Statement: To Develop and Promote the Economic Growth and Welfare of Crosslake While Protecting the Environment.

1. Call to Order: Dean Fitch
2. November 2019 Minutes: (motion required)
3. Program:
EDA Website Review
4. Updates: Dean
Regional Workshop Housing/March
GreenStep City Update Martha
Comp Plan Update Dean
5. Roundtable: Team
Future Programs:
February: Region 5, Tad Erickson Comp Plan
March: Regional Workshop
Ideas:
6. Announcements:
a. City Council Meeting – January 13
7. Adjourn

Crosslake Economic Development Authority
Meeting Minutes
8:30 A.M. November 6, 2019 Crosslake City Hall

Members present: Dean Fitch, Patty Norgaard, Jim Funk, Roger Roy, Wallace Johnson, John Andrews via phone

Others present: Tyler Glynn, BLAEDC Economic Development Officer, Martha Steele, Mission Township resident

The regular monthly meeting of the Crosslake EDA was called to order at 8:30 A.M. by Dean Fitch.

A motion was made by Roger Roy and seconded by Jim Funk to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2019 meeting. Dean Fitch clarified changes to the finalized budget figures in the minutes of September. The Lake Country Journal contract was changed to one year for \$2,850. Motion carried with all ayes.

Dean Fitch introduced the newest member (alternate) of the EDA, Wallace Johnson. Mr. Johnson shared that he had been in real estate development and construction for many years as President of Kestrel Properties and former President of Stonebridge Communities. He retired three years ago and felt he should get involved with a focus on affordable housing.

An overview of the current EDA focus was provided for Mr. Johnson, including keeping development properly balanced in Crosslake and moving in the direction of marketing and development, long term planning as well as telling the story of Crosslake. The partnership with BLAEDC was highlighted with Tyler Glynn giving the history of the Unified Fund of which Crosslake was an original proponent. Fifteen loans have been approved. The Unified Fund is an important tool and is a key to economic relationships. Water quality is a priority to attracting vital community members who once vacationed in the area and later made Crosslake their retirement home. The other key partner with the EDA has been Crosslake Communications. Josh Netland and his team have supported the Small Business Initiative and the development of the EDA website.

Updates:

Regional Workshop Review

Neighboring communities were invited to a workshop in April to share their concerns about economic development and to determine if there were topics in common. The four major topics identified were: Housing, Infrastructure, Telling Our Story and Funding Sources. A follow up workshop was held in October with speakers on the four topics. Follow up questions to be considered are:

Is there more to be done?

Should there be a regional meeting once a year?

Tyler Glynn shared that the workshops were received extremely well and that they provided good information. It is extremely important for dialogue to be open with nearby communities. Tourism as well as business opportunities in a community speak to a balanced development. The results of the Housing Study will help in looking at the challenges of the lack of housing and the impact on the workforce. Roger Roy suggested that Crosslake should work with the Blandin Foundation, a private non-profit whose mission is to be a trusted partner and advocate strengthening rural Minnesota communities.

GreenStep City

Patty Norgaard reported that Crosslake was awarded Step 2 of the GreenStep City program. Martha Steele shared that recognition at Step 3 involves implementing 12 best practices and completing 17 actions, some of which have already been addressed. The required actions focus on efficient public buildings, sustainable purchasing, urban forests and stormwater management. When questioned as to evaluating going forward with participation in the GreenStep City program, the response included the importance of environmental sustainability, the appeal to the younger generation and the resources and money saving practices available.

Comp Plan

Patty Norgaard reported that she is planning to contact Cheryal Hills, Region 5 Executive Director. A meeting request to all the original members will be sent. The plan is to look at each individual chapter and to bring in experts on the applicable topics. Dean Fitch attended the City Council meeting where provision in the Comp Plan to be reviewed on an annual basis was discussed. A process is needed to be set up to accomplish the review and have it done in a timely manner in correlation with budget planning. Although there is money in the EDA budget for updates, additional funding sources may be investigated.

Roundtable:

Tyler Glynn reported that the new Executive Director of BLAEDC hopes to be named by the first of the year. Tyler will continue to represent BLAEDC at the EDA meetings. Dean Fitch reported that a press release will announce the EDA website. The website will feature business activities and focus on property development and why businesses should come to Crosslake. John Andrews reported that the Housing Study had not been received.

Announcements:

City Council Meeting November 12

Start looking at 2020 programs

The January meeting will be rescheduled to the 8th

There being no further business or announcements, Dean Fitch adjourned the meeting at 9:45 A.M.

Martha Steele
Volunteer