

**MEETING OF THE PEQUOT LAKES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020**

Members Present: Chair Lindholm; Commissioners Becklin, Crochet, Lelwica, Lubke and Rieck

Members Absent: Commissioner Holley

Others Present: Nancy Malecha, City Administrator; Jennifer Peterson, Administrative Assistant; Tyler Glynn, BLAEDC; Scott Pederson, City Council Liaison; Katie Wassermann, Pequot Chamber of Commerce; and Mark Jurchen

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lindholm at 8:02 a.m.

a. Introduction of Members

2. Elect Chair & Vice Chair for 2020

Chair Lindholm asked for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair positions.

COMMISSIONER REICK MOVED TO ELECT CHRIS LINDHOLM FOR EDC CHAIR. COMMISSIONER CROCHET SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

COMMISSIONER LELWICA MOVED TO ELECT COMMISSIONER RIECK FOR VICE CHAIR. COMMISSIONER LUBKE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

3. Consider Agenda

COMMISSIONER LUBKE MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER RIECK SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

4. Approve EDC Minutes

COMMISSIONER CROCHET MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 17, 2019 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MINUTES. COMMISSIONER RIECK SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

5. Lego League Project Heart of the Good Life Presentation – Pamela Johnson

James Johnson, Avery Gorr, and Braden Wallin, 6th graders from Pequot Lakes Middle School Lego League team gave their presentation on a Solar Panel Power Source in the Heart of the Good Life Development.

Mr. Lindholm inquired about the pricing and energy production on the project. The initial cost of the project would be \$576,000 and will pay for itself in 15 years and net \$1,000,000 in savings and energy costs. These numbers were calculated by REAL in Pine River. One acre of solar panels are estimated to produce 375,000 kilowatt hours of energy per year.

Council member Lelwica asked if the panels could go on a building or roof of a structure if there is one in that area. Ms. Johnson stated that the ground panels produce more energy, due to possible snow cover and angle they are placed, than roof panels.

6. Welcoming Community Advocacy Group Update

Ms. Malecha stated Sourcewell has agreed to fund an eighteen month program, with quarterly meetings, facilitated by Region Five, IDI assessment opportunities, plus \$10,000 to use toward a community project to assist Pequot Lakes in becoming a Welcoming Community. The group would consist of 5-10 people from local government, business owners, students, school board, and non-profit.

Discussion ensued whether to move forward with the Welcoming Community Advocacy Group as well as how the City of Pequot Lakes can become a more welcoming community.

COMMISSIONER RIECK MOTIONED TO MAKE THE WELCOMING COMMUNITY ADVOCACY GROUP BE PART OF OUR 2020 PROJECT PRIORITIES. COMMISSIONER CROCHET SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

7. Define Work Plan and Timeline for 2020 Project Priorities

a. Workforce Housing

Ms. Malecha stated we are currently waiting for further information on the Workforce Housing from Crow Wing County HRA.

b. Pequot Lakes Incentive Program – 6-1-20 deadline

c. Marketing of the Heart of the Good Life Development

Ms. Malecha asked how the Commission would like the City to move forward on marketing the Heart of the Good Life Development aside from the flags to be displayed in the spring.

Discussion ensued regarding marketing, existing business park infill and funding for these projects. Mr. Jurchen gave an update on the existing business park infill. Mr. Jurchen met with business owners within the park and explained how the infill worked and the owners were very responsive to the information and some were not aware of the actual process.

COMMISSIONER LELWICA MOVED TO RENAME THE BUDGET ITEM FROM HOUSING REDEVELOPMENT & MARKETING TO REDEVELOPMENT & MARKETING FOR \$10,700. COMMISSIONER LUBKE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Mr. Pedersen inquired that we should look at listing the Heart of the Good Life Development lots with a realtor. Discussion ensued regarding contacting a realtor such as Close Converse in order to start the process to market the pieces of property in the Heart of the Good Life Development as well as pricing for lots and commission to a possible realtor.

d. Investment in Recreational Space in the Heart of the Good Life Development

Commissioner Lubke inquired on where we are at with the Heart of the Good Life “sports complex”. Discussion ensued regarding the recreational space including cost, space/area and support of the possible project. No decisions have been made in regards to this area.

8. School Update

Chair Lindholm stated the school district is negotiating with the Echo Journal to purchase the property/building adjacent to the school for classroom space. The school added 5.5 FTEs for teaching in the High School in 2020, which means there are no empty classrooms available to expand for growing enrollment.

9. Chamber Update

Ms. Wasserman stated Stars & Stripes Days planning has begun.

Ms. Wasserman is working with a new group/coalition, which is a mixture of chamber/non- chamber business owners to establish monthly events for businesses in Pequot Lakes.

Brainerd Lakes Chamber’s Executive Board annual meeting will be held February 7th at 9:00 am at the Cole Memorial Building. Ms. Wasserman requested an EDC member at the meeting to present the details of what the EDC is working on currently.

10. BLAEDC Update

Mr. Glynn stated that BLAEDC held a meet & greet to select the new executive director. Tyler Glynn was selected as the Economic Development Director for BLAEDC. Mr. Glynn gave an explanation on how the position was selected.

11. City of Jenkins Update

No update was given.

12. Other Business

There was no other business.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Peterson
Administrative Assistant