**City of Marine City**

**Community and Economic Development Board**

**March 24, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Community and Economic Development Board was held on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 by virtual telephone conference, and was called to order by Chairperson Scaccia at 6:00 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Scaccia.

**Present: Chairperson Scaccia; Planning Commission Representative Joseph Moran (arrived at 6:09); City Commission Representative Cheryl Vercammen; TIFA Board Representative Robert Weisenbaugh; Board Member Hatcher (arrived at 6:25); City Manager Elaine Leven; Deputy Clerk Michele Goodrich**

**Absent: Board Member Robert Klingler**

**Communications**

None.

**Approve Agenda**

Motion by TIFA Board Representative Weisenbaugh, seconded by City Commission Representative Vercammen, to approve the agenda. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Approve Minutes**

Motion by TIFA Board Representative Weisenbaugh, seconded by City Commission Representative Vercammen, to approve the Community & Economic Development Board minutes of February 24, 2021. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**Unfinished Business**

Kayak Launch Site

City Manager Leven advised the Board that the City was waiting on permits from the Army Corp and EGLE.

City Commission Funding Request

City Manager Leven stated that she was working on the budget and that she had put in a request for $5,000.00 to be earmarked for the Community and Economic Development Board.

EDA – Blue Meets Green, Marine City Marina

Chairperson Scaccia informed the Board that the Marine City Marina project was determined to be a strategic priority for this region and she hoped with this designation that it would help to secure funding.

Clinton River Cruise Boat Tours

Chairperson Scaccia stated that Paul Gallas was still interested in bringing his remaining boat to Marine City. She questioned if it would be possible or feasible for him to tie up to City property and offer cruises; City Manager Leven responded that it would be up to the City Commission if they wanted to allow that. Chairperson Scaccia questioned if utilizing the City property was something we could charge him for and if the CED Board should even pursue this venture. Planning Commission Representative Moran responded that he believed the CED Board should move forward with contacting Mr. Gallas and presenting the information to the City Commission.

Chairperson Scaccia requested that Planning Commission Representative Moran take the lead on gathering information and putting together a presentation for the City Commission.

Motion by Planning Commission Representative Moran, seconded by City Commission Representative Vercammen, to move forward with researching the possibility of offering Clinton River Cruises on the Belle River. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**New Business**

Splash Cash Raffle – Chamber of Commerce

Chairperson Scaccia informed the Board that the Chamber of Commerce had applied for licensing through the State and they would be covering the insurance liability. She stated that a portion of the ticket sales would go toward the Community and Economic Development Board but the key was to sell tickets.

City Commission Representative Vercammen questioned what the timeline would be and Chairperson Scaccia responded that they were waiting on State approval and that they would be submitting a Special Event Permit to be on the next City Commission agenda.

TIFA – Bob Weisenbaugh

TIFA Representative Weisenbaugh advised the Board that the information he had to present was no longer valid as the laws had been repealed since the time he had gathered the information.

Chairperson Scaccia stated that she had thought TIFA had been dissolved however, after speaking with Jeff Bohm, he had advised her that it could be brought back and it could possibly be borrowed against. She asked TIFA Representative Weisenbaugh to meet with County Commissioners Bohm and Vandenbossche to discuss TIFA.

Chairperson Scaccia questioned when the next TIFA meeting was and if it would be worth it to revisit the TIFA. City Manager Leven responded that it would take a lot of time and a lot of things would need to be done in order to get TIFA back in motion. City Manager Leven also informed the Board that they could do Industrial Facility Zones and Commercial Rehabilitation Zones and that there were more options available other than TIFA. Chairperson Scaccia would like the Board to pursue conversations with Jeff Bohm and Dan Casey and have them possibly present information at the next TIFA meeting scheduled for April 20.

**Open Discussion**

City Commission Representative Vercammen informed the Board that she had received information from Congresswoman Lisa McClain regarding community project funding grant requests. She was advised that the City’s Marina project would be a perfect fit for the grant program and she had forwarded that email to City Manager Leven. City Manager Leven advised that she would need help from the Board as the deadline was April 8, 2021 and she was still in budget meetings.

City Commission Representative Vercammen stated that she believed it would be a good idea for the Board to publish potential business ideas that they believed to be a good fit for Marine City for future investors.

Chairperson Scaccia informed the Board that she had spoken with Jeff Bohm regarding who paid for the St. Clair shuttle and he stated that the Blue Water Area Transit funded half of the shuttle service. She advised that she would be setting up a meeting with Blue Water Area Transit about including Marine City in their route.

Chairperson Scaccia stated she was having a private farewell party for the Titanic, it will be leaving Marine City April 6, 2021.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Planning Commission Representative Moran, seconded by City Commission Representative Vercammen to adjourn at 6:41 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Goodrich

Deputy Clerk

Kristen Baxter

City Clerk