**City of Marine City**

**Community and Economic Development Board**

**March 23, 2022**

A regular scheduled meeting of the Community and Economic Development Board was held on Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 260 South Parker Street, and was called to order by Chairperson Moran at 6:10 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Moran.

**Present: Planning Commission Representative (Chairperson) Joseph Moran; City Commission Representative Cheryl Vercammen; TIFA Board Representative Bob Weisenbaugh; Chamber of Commerce Representative Merchant; Board Members Cheryl Ross, Robert Klingler, Heather Hatcher; City Manager Holly Tatman; Deputy Clerk Michele Goodrich**

**Absent: None.**

**Communications**

None.

**Approve Agenda**

Motion by City Commission Representative Vercammen, seconded by Board Member Klingler, to approve the Agenda. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**Public Comment**

Micah Devlemick spoke in favor of the City constructing a skate park, splash pad and basketball courts on Louis R. Miller Drive.

**Approve Minutes**

Motion by City Commission Representative Vercammen, seconded by Chamber Representative Merchant, to approve the Community & Economic Development Board minutes of February 23, 2022. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**Unfinished Business**

Marine City Marina Project

City Manager Tatman informed the Board that the City was working on obtaining demolition quotes for the house and stated that the City would own the property effective April 1, 2022. She stated that the house was currently occupied and the City would have access once the tenants vacated the building. She also advised that the City would need to have the building tested for asbestos.

Chairman Moran stated that he approached the City Manager about utilizing Tag-a-Long mobile home park as a potential marina site. City Manager Tatman advised that she had reached out to Six Rivers Conservancy to get a sense of feasibility.

Wood Chair for Downtown Photo Op

City Commission Representative Vercammen informed the Board that she had obtained approval from DPW Supervisor Mike Itrich to utilize the brick paved corner at Drake Park to place the wood chair. City Manager Tatman advised that the placement of the chair still needed to go before the City Commission for special permission since there was still a moratorium on items being placed in City Parks.

Vacant Storefronts

Chairperson Moran informed the Board of the Planning Commission’s suggestions and stated that the latest version of the ordinance would be sent to the City Attorney for review.

Board Member Ross and City Commission Representative Vercammen both questioned the fee and both stated that the fee was too low to be effective. City Commission Representative Vercammen suggested that the fee remain $75 for the first six months, then increase to $150 for the next six months, and increase to $250 after one full year of the building remaining vacant and/or abandoned. City Manager Tatman informed the Board that the ordinance still had to go back before Planning Commission and that there needed to be a Public Hearing; she advised that there was time to review the fee amount.

Murals/Signs

Board Member Ross advised the Board that she had obtained approval from the property owner, the City, and the representative on behalf of the River Rec Teen Zone for the mural project and stated that the kids had unique design ideas. She stated that the murals should be installed by June.

Discussion: 13 Ways to Kill Your Community

Number 4: Deceive Yourself

Chairperson Moran questioned if anyone could identify any advantages that the City had that may have fallen by the wayside. Mr. Devlemick responded that the City used to have a police officer patrol downtown on foot or bicycle on a regular basis but he had not seen that in quite a long time.

Chairperson Moran informed the Board that he would like a volunteer appreciation day to recognize the City’s volunteers and to encourage future volunteer participation. Mr. Devlemick addressed the possibility of a Marine City clean-up day.

Chairperson Moran questioned what disadvantages the City needed to address. Board Member Hatcher advised that the sidewalks throughout town were in terrible condition. City Manager Tatman responded that the City may need to be stricter in holding homeowners responsible for the condition of their sidewalks.

Chamber Representative Merchant addressed that the mentality of the community needed to change as well. He stated his opinion that there was so much turmoil within the City that it was causing a severe disconnect within the community. He stated his belief that the 300 Broadway project will help to unify the City. City Manager Tatman informed the Board that she had met with potential City investors and they informed her that Marine City was known as the most negative City in the County and she stated the City needed to change that image.

**New Business**

None.

**Open Discussion**

Board Member Ross presented a draft flyer for the Summer Splash Bash and mock postcards for a “Rediscover downtown Marine City” promotion. She advised that she was working with the Chamber of Commerce on a potential event aimed at reintroducing City residents to what the downtown area had to offer. Board Member Ross explained that the approximate cost of printing and postage would be $2,100 and she requested financial assistance from the CED Board. The approval of funds would need to be addressed at the next CED Meeting as an agenda item.

City Manager Tatman explained that going forward, once the line item earmarked for CED funds was approved at the City Commission budget meetings then she did not anticipate having to obtain City Commission approval for every expenditure the CED Board approved.

Board Member Klingler informed the Board that a Fox Business news crew would be visiting Rockford Carving and highlight the business of manufacturing guitar parts. He stated that the segment would air April 21, 2022.

**Adjournment**

Motion by City Commission Representative Vercammen, seconded by Board Member Ross, to adjourn at 7:28 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Goodrich

Deputy Clerk

Kristen Baxter

 City Clerk