

**City of Marine City
Community and Economic Development Board
June 23, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Community and Economic Development Board was held on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 200 South Parker Street, and was called to order by Chairperson Scaccia at 6:01 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairperson Scaccia.

Present: Chairperson Laura Scaccia; Planning Commission Representative Joseph Moran; City Commission Representative Cheryl Vercammen; Board Member Cheryl Ross, Board Member Robert Klingler; Interim City Manager Mike Itrich; Deputy Clerk Michele Goodrich

Absent: City Manager Leven; TIFA Board Representative Bob Weisenbaugh

Communications

None.

Approve Agenda

Motion by Board Member Klingler, seconded by Planning Commission Representative Moran, to approve the agenda. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Public Comment

None.

Approve Minutes

Motion by Planning Commission Representative Moran, seconded by City Commission Representative Vercammen, to approve the Community & Economic Development Board minutes of May 26, 2021, as amended. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Unfinished Business

Marine City Marina Project

Chairperson Scaccia announced that the DNR grant presentation with Six Rivers Conservancy was scheduled for August.

Clinton River Cruise Boat

Chairperson Scaccia advised the Board that Mr. Gallas had received all of the proper approvals and that a lease with the City had been signed. She stated that Mr. Gallas was already booking tours for summer cruises and that she had received a lot of positive feedback. Interim City Manager Itrich advised that there should be electricity at the site within the next month.

City Commission Representative Vercammen informed the Board that she had spoken with Pastor Joe Wenturine with Harvest Church regarding the use of his parking lot and that he was receptive to Mr. Gallas utilizing the space for parking.

Splash Cash Raffle

Chairperson Scaccia updated the Board on raffle sales for both the Splash Cash Raffle and the Tugboat Raffle.

Kayak Launch

Interim City Manager Itrich clarified for the Board that approval had been received by the Corps of Engineers however, the City has still waiting on EGLE approval.

Mission Statement

Chairperson Scaccia stated that not having a mission statement posed an issue when submitting for grant funding. Deputy Clerk Goodrich read a potential Mission Statement. Chairperson Scaccia advised that she would like more reference to business owners.

New Business

Signage

Chairperson Scaccia would like to see Marine City implement signage highlighting various accolades such as the Guinness Record for Longest Popcorn String. Board Member Klingler would like to capitalize on "Marine" references on all City signage. Interim City Manager Itrich stated that it was possible to oversign a City.

City Commission Representative Vercammen advised she would still like to see the sides of buildings painted with Marine City related material. Chairperson Scaccia stated that

artwork of "Did you know" facts could be used to target residents in an effort to bring residents to the downtown district. She also informed the Board that the River Rec Teen Zone received a grant for an art initiative and recommended City Commission Representative Vercammen speak with the River Rec Teen Zone.

Board Member Klingler addressed the possibility of expanding parking in the City. Planning Commission Representative Moran responded that the Planning Commission had a parking study done by MSU that concluded the City had adequate parking however, the parking was on off streets or municipal lots and parking may not be available directly in front of the building the patron wanted to visit. Board Member Klingler requested more signage directing people to the municipal lots.

Chairperson Scaccia stated she would like the CED Board to write a letter to the business owners on Water Street requesting they ask their staff to park on the side streets; to be presented to the City Commission for review and approval. Planning Commission Representative Moran made a motion instructing the CED Board to write a letter, to be mailed to the business owners on Water Street, requesting that business employees not park on Water Street. Chairperson Scaccia interjected stating that City Commission would need to approve any letters and that a letter needed to be drafted prior to any motions made. Planning Commission Representative Moran rescinded his motion.

Community Foundation – Talent Attraction Grant

Chairperson Scaccia reviewed a flyer put out by the Community Foundation of St. Clair County.

Open Discussion

Board Member Cheryl Ross introduced herself and stated she was looking forward to giving back to the community.

City Commission Representative Vercammen updated the Board on the condominium developments in the City, and the status of planned improvements to the Geck building. She stated that she would like the City to send letters to vacant commercial buildings asking if property owners wanted to sell. Interim City Manager Itrich stated it would be better for a real estate agent to send that type of correspondence.

Chairperson Scaccia updated the Board on the progress of the Marine City Marina Project including grant funding received and the DNR presentation to occur in August. She stated she would like to set up a meeting with Bill Rose's daughter to see what docking was available for visitors.

Board Member Klingler would like there to be a Facebook page dedicated to the development and activity on the Belle River. He does not want to lose the momentum regarding progress in that area. Chairperson Scaccia stated that she wanted to stay focused on the Marina presentation and that they could revisit his idea in the Fall.


Chairperson Scaccia stated that the Chamber did not intend to pull the special event permit for the Battle of the Bands event in August and that Dave Vandenbossche and Jeff Bohm would have information regarding the event. She also stated that the Chamber Executive Director had put in her two week notice.

Planning Commission Representative Moran informed the Board that he had contacted Katie Stepp, with the Blue Water Area Convention and Visitor's Bureau, on how to promote Marine City and that she had given him seven bullet points with suggestions on how to promote tourism. He stated that he had visited Michigan.org and there was nothing particularly catching about Marine City.

Adjournment

Motion by Board Member Klingler, seconded by Planning Commission Representative Moran to adjourn at 7:19 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Michele Goodrich
Deputy Clerk



Kristen Baxter
City Clerk