

MINUTES
Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce
Area Business Committee
August 30, 2007

Present: Steve Lynch, Craig Bender, Mike laizzo, Mona Karkela, Susie Best, Brandon Sharp

Chamber Staff: Renee Thompson & Bud Stone

The Meeting was called to order by Mona Karkela.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Craig Bender made a motion to approve the July minutes; Mike laizzo seconded the motion; Motion carried.

ACTION: No further action is needed.

HERALD REVIEW FLIERS:

The committee viewed fliers that the Herald Review inserted in the newspaper. These consisted of the back to school ad, school sport ad and the upcoming September calendar of events.

Brandon commented that the "Back to School Flyer" should be distributed earlier for next year.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

CRAZY DAYZ

Brian Bissonette, Paul Bunyan Telephone, needs the 2008 Crazy Dayz dates to reserve next year's event.

The committee looked at the 2008 calendar and determined that the 2008 Crazy Dayz will be July 17-19, 2008; with the Paul Bunyan event on July 19, 2008.

Steve Lynch informed the committee that the Herald Review plans to offer the same advertising rates for 2008 as for 2007.

Suzie Best informed the committee that Charter Media took footage of this years Crazy Dayz event and will be able to use it for advertising next year in the committee decides to do so.

Brandon asked Suzie if she would be able to provide the committee with the footage for their viewing. Suzie indicated that is possible.

ACTION: Suzie will get the footage to the committee.

BUSINESS UPDATES

Bud gave an update on the status of the Minnesota Steel Project. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has received some opposition regarding the Minnesota Steel Project. As a result, there will be a hearing on Friday, September 7, 2007. Bud asked that if anyone from the committee would like to show support for the project by attending the hearing to let him know.

The Grand Rapids Area Chamber is partnering with the Hibbing Chamber on the transportation to the MPCA hearing in St. Paul. A gray hound bus will be leaving the Wal-Mart parking lot in Hibbing at 5 a.m. on September 7, 2007.

Committee discussion lead to possible economic benefits that could result if the Minnesota Steel project became a reality. For example; there is a business that indicated they would be interested in a relocate to the Nashwauk area if MN Steel were in production. The relocation would allow that business to have better accessibility to the steel they use.

ACTION: Bud will forward the information regarding the hearing out to the membership.

Bud informed the committee that the Poly-Met project is moving forward.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

Bud briefly explained mining overlays to the committee.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

The committee was invited to attend a conference organized by the Minnesota Forest Resource Partnership titled, "Improving Timber Productivity in Minnesota: A Step Forward". The conference will be held in Duluth on October 16 & 17, 2007.

ACTION: Anyone interested in attending the conference should contact Bud.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be September 27, 2007 at 8:00 a.m., Chamber Conference room.

Meeting adjourned