

**MINUTES**  
**Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce**  
**Area Business Committee**  
**Jan. 31st, 2008**

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**Present:** Steve Lynch, Mike Iaizzo, Mona Karkela, Len Salmela, Jean Luken, Derek Rolle, Jean Healy, Brandon Sharp, Bob Bentz, Linda Urevig, Kent Nyberg, John Santana, Sue Kujala, Jason Janesich, Gail Johnson, Wendy Green, Gabe Baudeck

**Chamber Staff:** Kerry Larsen & Bud Stone

**Guest:** Tom Pagel & Rob Mattei

Mona Karkela called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Len Salmela made a motion to approve the November 27th 2007 minutes with the correction of Len Salmela's last name; Jean Luken seconded the motion with this amendment; motion carried.

**ACTION:** No further action is needed.

**HERALD REVIEW FLIERS:**

The committee viewed the flier/ad in the Herald Review, which will be inserted in the upcoming Pride and Progress section March 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> 2008.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

**TOM PAGEL & ROB MATTEI/ASSESSMENTS & ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS:**

The committee invited Tom and Rob to the ABC meeting to help understand the process of calculating assessments and talk about road improvements. Tom gave a hand out to the committee members that included City project benefit boundaries and City project Parking lot benefit boundaries. Tom explained to the committee members how these assessments were calculated, what the future may hold, and who will be affected by this. The committee members discussed concerns and more clarity was needed about who wanted these decorative improvements. What was the process? Was the cost equally distributed? Who decides what lamp post gets purchased and put in? Landscaping? The committee members were informed by Tom of the procedure with which this project was started and the timeline. After a lengthy discussion the committee members agreed that more participation by the business owners themselves should be considered for future projects by attending meetings and etc...Tom explained to the committee for future reference to come to meetings, ask questions and be involved from the start because it can make a big difference. Tom also mentioned with certain issues an appeal process is an option. Tom and Rob gave a brief update on the Highway 169 and Highway 2 project. Phase one has been completed, Phase 2 could be started as early as April 2008 if weather permits and Phase 3 & 4 possibly by 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**ACTION:** Tom encouraged the committee members if they had any further questions to please call or stop by.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting will be Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m., Chamber Conference room.

**Meeting adjourned**