

MINUTES
Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce
Area Business Committee
March 27th 2008

Present: Mona Karkela, Derek Rolle, Jean Healy, Bev Leckie, Brandon Sharp, Mike Iaizzo, Len Samela, Kellie Wohlers, Amy Biers, Steve Lynch

Chamber Staff: Kerry Larsen & Bud Stone

Guest: Shannon Rajala

Mona Karkela called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Derek Rolle made a motion to approve the Feb 2008 minutes; Brandon Sharp seconded; motion carried.

ACTION: No further action is needed.

HERALD REVIEW FLIERS:

Steve Lynch brought last years Opening Fishing BBQ ad that was used in the Herald Review. Once all the new information is gathered a new ad will be made.

ACTION: Kerry will make sure Steve has all the updated information by the correct date.

MS BIKE TRAM:

Shannon Rajala updated the committee members on the MS BIKE TRAM the weekend of July 18th – 20th 2008. Shannon wanted the members to be aware of the event and suggested that the businesses stay open later on Sunday the 20th if they could. After a brief discussion Bud agreed to send an email out to the membership reminding them of the MS Bike Tram. The committee wanted Shannon to relay to tram participants the weekend events as well such as: Krazy Dayz and the Game Nick Lab show that is that weekend too.

ACTION: No further action is needed at this time.

OPENING FISHING BBQ:

The committee members discussed the Opening Fishing BBQ that will take place on May 9th 2008, 4 p.m. – 7p.m. at the Central School Grounds.

The committee discussed and assigned projects as follows:

Bud:

- Email asking for donated prizes **(DONE) Kerry is taking care of getting prizes to BBQ**
- See if Norm Coleman can attend again **(DONE)**
- WDIO, Music, Grounds, tables, chairs, and tent for the musicians **(DONE)**
- Ask Board members if a beer garden can be pursued **(NEXT BOARD MEETING)**
- Contact City for contract **(DONE)**

Mona:

- Will get beer garden organized if approved by Chamber Board
- Call Gail from Bridgman's to see if she wants to participate **(DONE) Will not be participating.**

Kerry:

- Make coupon books **(DONE)**
- Information in newsletter **(GATHERING)**
- Ambassadors to attend & volunteer **(DONE) Kerry is continuing to get volunteers and will contact them before BBQ**

- Get the prizes that membership donated, make sure they are brought to BBQ **(DONE)**
- Make sure Suzie knows who prize donators are **(GATHERING)**
- Call Jeff Sundin (bringing boats, casting contest) **(CONFIRMED)**
- Talk with Kelly Morris/Public Utilities – keep informed of who and what is going on **(IN PROCESS)**
- Email Brian commercial from Chartermedia or have Suzie **(WILL DO WHEN COMPLETED)**
- Get advertising verbage/logo from Brian for Bernstein bears if can **(DONE)**
- Call Rays Sport & Marine/ Grand Rapids Marine/ Grand Rapids GM
- Itasca Lets go Fishing **(DONE) All are participating**
- Email the flier out to the membership before the BBQ
- Make sure Steve Lynch has the correct information for the new ad for the Herald Review in a timely fashion.

Jean:

- Confirm with Kettle Korn they will be participating **(DONE)**
- Stanchions for Bernstein Bears. Jean will let Paul Bunyan use them. **(DONE)**

Mike:

- Call Sawmill and Confirm with Edie/Sandwiches. Let her know Bernstein Bears will be there. Running out of Sandwiches is a concern. **(DONE)**
- Curb Feelers playing? **(DONE – YES)**
- Call Drew bouncy thing? **(DONE – YES) NEED VOLUNTEERS. Kerry is continuing to get volunteers and will contact them before BBQ**
- Mike will check on when the banners will be out that say “Community Event”

Craig:

- Call MN Northern League of Guides – Tim Dorholt, Phone: 218-326-8728 **(?)**

Suzie:

- Will get different commercial for BBQ. Kerry will get information to Suzie to change commercial.

Brian:

- Confirm Bernstien Bears with PBS **(CONFIRMED)**
- Get advertising info to Kerry for newsletter and etc. **(DONE)**
- Get tent from Lefty's for Bears **(CONFIRMED)**

ACTION: The committee members will complete assigned duties and report the progress at each meeting until the event.

KRAZY DAYS:

The committee members briefly discussed Krazy Days weekend on July 17th – 19th 2008, Downtown Grand Rapids. Brian Bissonette gave committee members information at the last meeting regarding the Nick Game Lab on July 19th 2008. This included: Ticket distribution plan, Paul Bunyan responsibilities, advertising, rider, the requirements and the set up for the stage.

The responsibilities of the Chamber include:

- Snow fencing
- Water Supply
- Electricity
- Port – A- Johns
- Any event permitting
- Help coordinate vendor area outside of show area – Brian will call Lila Crowe
- Nick Game Lab Poster Distribution
- Overnight Security – GR Police Department
- Entertainment the night before per suggestion of Mike laizzo
- Commercial for Crazy Days by Chartermedia emphasizing on shopping more. Commercial will be similar to Opening Fishing BBQ commercial.

The committee will need to start completing these assignments as soon as possible. Craig Bender has volunteered to see if the Farmers Market would like to participate downtown, Kerry will send an email or call Craig and remind him.

ACTION: Kerry will remind Craig Bender about the Farmers Market since he was not at the meeting today.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be April 24th 2008 at 8:00 a.m., Chamber Conference room.

Meeting adjourned