

**Ambassador Committee
Conference Room – Chamber of Commerce
August 13th 2008**

PRESENT: Fred Trappe, Josh Hafar, Scott Sarkela, June Johnson, Shannon Rajala, Diane Skelly, Shane Skelly, Jane O'Leary, Laurie Gomez, Bobbie McInerney, Ann Backes-Dodge, Andy Mundt, Kathy Pliska, Peg Schagh, Kathy Timm, Ann Killian, Clair Madison, Kristina Clark

CHAMBER STAFF: Kerry Larsen

APPROVAL OF JUNE 2008 MINUTES:

Laurie Gomez made a motion to approve the June 2008 minutes; Clair Madison seconded; motion carried.

ACTION: No further action is needed.

ANN BACKES –DODGE/WELD:

Ann visited the committee to discuss WELD and what it stands for. Ann explained the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce Workforce Development Committee joined together with approximately 25 training and professional development providers and formed WELD, the Workforce Exchange for Learning and Development. Ann mentioned WELD might make it easier for you to "build a better business by building a better workforce". WELD partnered with Community Education to provide the infrastructure for the development of WELD in hopes in making it a one-stop-shop for training. Ann did remind committee members WELD would be presenting at the September 8th 2008 Luncheon.

ACTION: No further action is needed.

UPDATE NAMES & EMAILS:

N/A

ACTION: No further action is needed

GREETINGS:

Jane O'Leary updated the committee on greetings. These consisted of: The July Breakfast Connection at The Front Parlour hosted by The Front Parlour and the August Luncheon. Augusts Breakfast Connection is at the Reif Center hosted by the Reif Center.

ACTION: Jane will send an email out asking for volunteers as needed

RIBBON CUTTINGS:

Shannon Rajala updated the committee on ribbon cuttings. These consisted of: Lets Go Fishing, Akasha Arts, Mary – Kay, Katie Lang and Dynamic Machining. Kerry Larsen and Carie Olds took six ribbon-cutting photos. These were Deer Wood Bank, Florios, Golf on The Edge, Valley Forest Products, Wildwood Resort and River Road Grooming and Board.

ACTION: Shannon will continue to ask for volunteers as needed.

MEMBERSHIP:

N/A

BREAKFAST CONNECTIONS:

Laurie Gomez reminded the committee members we have openings for 2009 with the exception of March and April taken by Grand Itasca and Diamond Willow.

ACTION: Laurie Gomez along with committee members will continue to fill 2009 calendar with breakfast connection hosts.

NEW MEMBERS:

Kerry updated the committee members on new members that have joined the Chamber. These consisted of: Akasha Art & Antiques, Taskmasters Handyman & Cabin Care, Turning Point Retreat Center, Edward Jones – Brad Johnson, Wildwood Trail Rides, Wildwood Resort and Deer Lake Private Home Rental/ Kerry encouraged the committee members to stop by and congratulate them for joining the Chamber if possible.

ACTION: Kerry will continue to update the committee members on new members at the next meeting.

Laurie Gomez – Benefits of Being a Chamber Ambassador:

Laurie Gomez briefly talked with the committee members on how she felt being an ambassador is very beneficial through networking and visibility. Laurie gave ideas to committee members on how they could get the best so-called “bang for your buck” when being an ambassador.

ACTION: No further action is needed.

POSSIBLE CHANGES IN THE AMBASSADOR COMMITTEE FOR 2009:

The committee chairs and sub-committee chairs presented an idea that may be possibly starting in 2009 for the Ambassador committee. The changes that may happen are: Only fifteen Ambassadors per year and an interview process to be an ambassador. The committee chairs and sub committee chairs feel it's always the same people that volunteer for ribbon cuttings, greetings, parades and breakfast connections. A chart was made of who participated in what in 2008 so far was displayed for the committee members. The changes are in hopes of making an Ambassador of the Chamber of Commerce more of an honor and privilege. Kerry has been to Membership Director conferences where more of a process to become an Ambassador takes place.

ACTION: The committee and sub committee chairs will meet with Sherry Frick and present their idea of the wanted changes for 2009. Kerry will find examples of Ambassador contracts and applications and let the group know.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Ambassador meeting will be September 10th 2008 at the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 8:00 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned