

# MINUTES

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce January 29, 2007 – Forest Lake Restaurant

**Present:** June Johnson, Lilah Crowe, Karen Lindgren, Rick Utech, Cindy Feyder, Kent Koerbitz, Margie Ritter, Peggy Schagh, Mike Birkeland, Roger Hoyum, Linda Gibeau, Mike laizzo

**Absent:** Sholom Blake, Shannon Benolken, Jim Millis, Amy Trast, Judy Nesvold, Michelle Rossi, Brandon Sharp

**Chamber staff:** Bud Stone, Renee Thompson

Karen Lindgren, Chair, called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the December 18, 2006 meeting minutes.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Roger Hoyum made a motion to approve the December 18, 2006 minutes. Peggy Schagh seconded the motion; motion carries.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

### **FINANCIALS**

Bud reviewed the December financials with the board.

Bud reviewed the dues amount billed for 2007 and the amount collected so far.

Rich Utech made a motion to accept the December financials. June Johnson seconded the motion, motion carries.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

### **GUEST SPEAKER**

Peter McDermott, IEDC President, gave the board an overview of their work plan for achieving the Community Report Goals.

The Itasca Economic Development Advisory Council initiated discussions on a shared community vision which resulted in a collaborative publication in 2005 of the "Community Report" of socioeconomic indicators for the Itasca County Area. Itasca Economic Development Corporation, along with several partners, have been mobilizing efforts to take action to improve the measure in future years, thereby "creating quality lives." Itasca Community Engagement (ICE) is a quarterly gathering of partners committed to improving the benchmark statistics in future years.

IEDC's mission is "Helping Create Quality Jobs".

The work they do is organized around three areas:

1. Economic Development
2. Community Development
3. Alignment, Organization and Communication

Peter then gave an overview of major strategy project descriptions, their role and their objective.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

### **BURLINGTON NORTHERN**

Bud gave the board an overview of the Burlington Northern meeting he attended on 1/24/07. Bud informed the board that that Burlington Northern joined the Chamber. Bud spoke to Brian Sweeney, Legislative Council for Burlington Northern Railway Co., before the meeting regarding the Chamber's position on the Captive Rail issues the area is dealing with. Brian asked if he could come to a board meeting to speak about their position.

Bud informed the board that the Grand Rapids Area Chamber is the only Chamber that is a member of Gopher Cure, an organization that is dedicated to creating rail equity and eliminating captive rail situations. Other local Gopher Cure Members are UPM Blandin Paper Company and the Minnesota Forest Industries organization.

**ACTION:** Bud will extend an invitation to Brian to be a quest speaker at a board meeting.

### **BRANDING OF GRAND RAPIDS**

Bud Stone, Linda Gibeau and Lilah Crowe participated in a "Brand of Grand Rapids" meeting hosted by Ruttgers and gave the board a brief overview of that meeting.

**ACTION:** Updates will be reported as necessary.

### **2006 COMMUNITY REPORT**

Bud explained to the board that the Itasca Community Engagement (ICE) committee would like to reprint the Community Report for 2006. In order to do so, they will need to have financial support from those partners involved.

Bud asked the board if they would like to help support the 2006 Community Report with a financial donation of \$500.00.

Mike Birkeland made a motion to contribute \$500.00 toward the 2006 Community Report. Rick Utech seconded the motion. Motion carries.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

### **SPECIAL LUNCHEON**

Bud informed the board that the Chamber and IEDC are partnering for a Special Chamber Luncheon on February 20, 2007 at the Sawmill. The luncheon presentation will be the Highway 2 and Highway 169 construction project.

The Chamber's student workers are delivering invitations regarding the luncheon to all the businesses within two blocks of the construction area which runs from Treasure Bay on the east side to 18<sup>th</sup> avenue west on the west side.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next Board of Directors meeting will be at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, February 26, 2007 at the Forest Lake.

Mike laizzo made a motion to adjourn. Margie Ritter seconded the motion; motion carries. Meeting adjourned.