

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce October 27, 2008

Present: Mike Iaizzo, Sherry Frick, Rick Utech, Cheryl Lemler, Amy Trast, June Johnson, Margie Ritter, Wayne Bruns, Brandon Sharp, Chad Simons, Gary McInerney, Karen Lindgren, Cindy Feyder, Peggy Schagh, Judy Nesvold, Michelle Rossi, Greg Chandler

Absent: Mark Johnson, Jane Bymark, Sholom Blake, Jane Bymark

Incoming Board members: Kim Jamtgaard, Lisa Randall, Chad Simons, Megan Christiansen

Chamber staff: Bud Stone, Renee Thompson, Kerry Larsen

Guests: Marla Beaty, Jason Green

Sherry Frick called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Michelle Rossi made a motion to approve the agenda. Wayne Bruns seconded the motion. Motion carried. Agenda approved.

2009 BOARD MEMBER NOMINEES

Sherry informed the board that Lisa Randall, Dave Leveille, Kim Jamtgaard, Chad Simmons, Megan Christianson all accepted the 3-year board term offered to them. Mark Johnson declined his board term offer due to a conflict that would interfere with him attending board meetings.

Sherry asked the incoming board members present to introduce themselves.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Sherry then asked for a motion to approve the August 25, 2008 meeting minutes.

Gary McInerney made a motion to approve the August 25, 2008 meeting minutes. Mike Iaizzo seconded the motion. Motion carries.

ACTION: No further action necessary

FINANCIALS

Sherry asked if there were any question regarding the August or September financials. Sherry then asked for a motion to accept the August and September financials.

Rick Utech made a motion to accept the financials. June Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

BIG BROTHER

The board members gave updates on the new Chamber member businesses they contacted.

ACTION: Kerry will continue to set up these assignments as new members join.

GREATER GRAND RAPIDS AREA JOB FAIR

Marla Beaty gave the board an update on the Job Fair she is organizing.

Marla informed the board that DEED is offering a free seminar for businesses on how to use the job bank at 10:00 a.m. at the job fair on October 29, 2008.

Marla also spoke about the India – Global Understanding Conference she is helping organize. The conference is December 11, 2008 at Hibbing Community College. The Chamber is a sponsor of the event. A flyer was distributed to the board regarding the conference.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC)

Bud informed the board that the GRACPAC endorsed Bob Kuschel for Itasca County Commissioner District 2.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

CHAMBER LUNCHEON DISCUSSION

Karen Lindgren, Chair of the Program Committee, informed the board that the Program Committee is looking for some feedback regarding the value of the chamber luncheons and why board members attend or don't attend.

Does the board feel there are too many of them? Should they be quarterly? Would a different day work better?

Board discussion took place and it was determined that the chamber luncheons are valuable, should continue monthly, but Tuesday or Wednesday fit most board members schedules better.

ACTION: Karen will relay the board's feedback to the Program Committee.

WALLEYE CLASSIC

Bud approached Jason Green regarding organizing a Chamber Walleye Tournament to increase "non-dues" revenues. Jason gave the board some details regarding hosting a walleye tournament.

Besides being a fundraiser for the Chamber, the proceeds will fund a scholarship at Itasca Community College and provide the DNR with some funds for walleye stocking in Pokegama Lake.

Board discussion took place. Gary McInerney made a motion to allow Jason to go ahead and organize a Chamber Walleye Classic as long as Chamber member businesses were used when ever possible. Wayne Bruns seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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ACTION: The board will be kept updated regarding the Walleye Classic as necessary.

OTHER:

Bud informed the board that he received an invitation from the US Chamber to sit on their Education, Employment, and Training Committee for the 2008-2009 year.

The committee meets three times a year. Bud will be able to participate via conference call in those meetings.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

ITASCA COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATE

Kim Jamtgaard gave the board an update on the Itasca County Zoning Ordinance. On November 17, 2008 there will be a Transportation Land Management meeting and a public hearing regarding how changes in the ordinance might affect existing resorts.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

SCANDINAVIA VF/VC

Bud informed the board that the total expenses to attend the VF/VC conference were \$6,025. The Blandin Foundation will be covering \$5000 of the expenses. The Chamber will be funding the remainder.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

DEED CONFERENCE/DRIVER AWARD

Bud informed the board that he received the "Drivers Award" at the DEED Conference. Bud was the first person to receive such an award.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

2009 BUDGET

Bud reviewed the 2009 budget with the board. The board did receive a copy of the budget, as well as an information sheet explaining the budget, prior to the board meeting.

After board discussion, Cindy Feyder made a motion to accept the 2009 budget. Brandon Sharp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

Chad Simon made a motion to adjourn. Gary McInerney seconded the motion; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.