

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce March 29, 2010

Present: Greg Chandler, Jake Goering, Amy Trast, Jane Bymark, Cheryl Lemler, Margie Ritter, Derek Rolle, Leigh Lonson, Kristina Clark, Kim Jamtgaard, Stephanie Davis, Chad Simons

Absent: Lisa Randall, Gary McInerney, Megan Christianson, David Marty, Diane Skelly, Roger Mischke, Dave Leveille

Chamber staff: Bud Stone, Renee Thompson

Guests:

Jake called the meeting to order and asked if there were any additions to the agenda.

Bud added State College Grant Fund and Nominating Committee nominations to the agenda.

Greg made a motion to approve the agenda with Bud's added agenda items. Jane Bymark seconded the motion. Motion carried. Agenda approved.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Jake asked for a motion to approve the February 22, 2010 meeting minutes.

Cheryl made a motion to approve the February 22, 2010 board meeting minutes. Margie seconded the motion. Motion carried. Minutes approved.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

FINANCIALS

Bud reviewed the February 2010 financials with the board members. Bud explained that he had talked to a couple members that are past due and those members indicated they would pay.

Chad made a motion to accept the February financials. Jane seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

DOUG JOHNSON FUND

Based on the email vote to support leaving the money in the Doug Johnson fund, Bud drafted a resolution and distributed it to the board for review.

Greg made a motion to support the resolution as written. Amy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ACTION: Bud will forward the resolution to the appropriate people.

LOCAL RADIO FREEDOM ACT UPDATE

Bud sent the resolution of support to three workforce development legislators and also to Doug Loon at the US Chamber.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

GOLD STAR MEMBER TASKFORCE UPDATE

Kristina gave a report from the "Gold Star" taskforce that met on March 9, 2010.

The taskforce decided to change the name from "Gold Star" to "Pillar Awards." Members who invest in excess of \$4000 annually in dues, sponsorships or donations, will be the recipients of a "Pillar of the Chamber Award". Those members will receive their "Pillar Award" at the Annual Dinner and be recognized in the first Chamber newsletter following the Annual Dinner.

Cheryl made a motion to approve the "Pillar Award" guidelines. Amy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

RECIPROCAL CHAMBER MEMBERSHIPS

The board briefly discussed having reciprocal memberships with other chambers and decided not to initiate reciprocal memberships.

ACTION: Bud will let those Chambers inquiring know of the board's decision.

POLYMET HEARING

Bud gave an overview of the Polymet hearing he attended on March 10, 2010.

Bud and about 45 other people rode a bus down to the Capitol to testify; which resulted in accomplishing their goal. The bill was pulled from the Senate floor for lack of support at 10:00 p.m.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

WALLEYE CLASSIC UPDATE

Bud informed the board that the Chamber Staff and some of the Walleye Classic committee members have participated in four Home/Sport shows promoting the Chamber and Walleye Classic.

The Chamber Staff will also be participating in the Bemidji Jaycees Home Show April 16-18, 2010.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

HIGHWAY 169 CONSTRUCTION

Bud updated the board on the Highway 169 construction projects. Highway 169 to Coleraine will be under construction this summer as will the stretch between the four lane by Taconite and Pengilly.

The intersection of 3rd Street and 5th Street East will be constructed and a RR Crossing gate will be added. In 2011, the west end of town, 18th Avenue NW will be gated and the crossing will be redesigned. After both of those gates are added, the train speed can be increased and the train whistle can be eliminated.

BIG BROTHER

Kerry went through the big brother assignments.

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

STATE COLLEGE FUND

Dennis Egan gave a presentation on the importance of the State College Grant Fund and the reasons for keeping it funded to the Government Affairs Committee. At the end of his presentation he requested support for the fund from the Government Affairs Committee. The Committee passed a motion of support.

As a result of that, Bud drafted a resolution of support for the board to consider.

Bud informed the board that the Blandin Foundation granted the Chamber's Workforce Development Program another one-year grant. The work the Chamber's Workforce Development Initiative is engaged in compliments the State College Fund.

Kristina made a motion to support the State College Fund. Greg Chandler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ACTION: Bud will forward the resolution of support to the appropriate people.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Bud reminded the board that Brandon Sharp has resigned from the board due to a job transfer. Brandon was the 2010 Vice-Chair.

The nominating committee would like to nominate Greg Chandler to 2010 Vice-Chair position and add Roger Hoyum to the board to fill Greg's remaining nine months.

Jane Bymark made a motion to accept the nominating committee's recommendations. Kristina seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ACTION: Greg accepted his nomination and Bud will notify Roger regarding his.

NEXT MEETING:

The next board meeting will be at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, April 26, 2010 at the Forest Lake Restaurant. .

Jane made a motion to adjourn. Greg seconded the motion; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.