

# MINUTES

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce March 30, 2009

**Present:** Amy Trast, Sherry Frick, Cheryl Lemler, Jane Bymark, Margie Ritter, Peggy Schagh, Lisa Randall, Megan Christianson, Greg Chandler, Jake Goering, June Johnson, Brandon Sharp, Gary McInerney

**Absent:** Sholom Blake, Chad Simons, Kim Jamtgaard, David Marty, Mike Iaizzo, Dave Leveille

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

**Guests:** Marla Beaty

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

Amy Trast made a motion to approve the agenda. June Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried. Agenda approved.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Margie then asked for a motion to approve the February 23, 2009 meeting minutes.

Jane Bymark made a motion to approve the February 23, 2009 meeting minutes. Greg Chandler seconded the motion. Motion carried. Minutes approved.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

### **FINANCIALS**

Bud reviewed the February 2009 financials with the board members.

Bud reminded the board that March 31, 2009 was the drop date for memberships not paid in full or members who did not call to be on a payment plan.

Bud asked the board for a one-month grace period for the unpaid members to give the Chamber Staff time to call them. Bud also asked for board assistance in contacting those members.

Megan Christianson made a motion to accept the February financials and allow a one-month grace period. Gary McInerney seconded the motion. Motion carries.

**ACTION:** Bud will email the board the list of unpaid members so that they might select those that they want to contact individually.

## **GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Jake Goering, Chair of the Chamber's Government Affairs Committee, gave the board an overview of the Committee's goals and mission and accomplishments.

Jake also provided the board with handouts outlining his presentation.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

## **PLA – NMBA & ITASCA COUNTY WORK SESSION**

Bud presented to the board a resolution from Megan Christianson of the NMBA regarding Project Labor Agreements with Itasca County projects.

Bud explained to the Board that we have members who are for PLAs and members who are against PLAs. Because of that, Bud suggested polling the Chamber membership before making a decision on taking a position.

The Board agreed that this issue affects members in different ways and that polling the membership would give some guidance to the board.

Considering a large portion of the Chamber Membership will not be familiar with PLA's and their association within Itasca County, Bud will get fact sheets from both sides to include in the e-mail poll.

**ACTION:** Bud will poll the membership via email after getting facts sheets from of both sides.

## **BRANDING UPDATE**

Bud informed the board that a grant for \$120,000 was submitted to the Blandin Foundation to hire a Grant Manager to assist in getting the Grand Rapids Brand, "It's in Minnesota's Nature" implemented. The Blandin Foundation funded the grant at \$50,000 over two years.

The City has already painted the strap line on one water tower in Grand Rapids and will be hanging banners with the logo on it in mid April.

**ACTION:** Bud asked the board to be thinking of how the Chamber can utilize the brand.

## **GEOGRAPHICAL RESTRICTIONS RESOLUTION**

Bud reviewed with the Board the Geographical Restriction Resolution from Chad Simons regarding State bids that are done for conferences where geographical restrictions are listed in the requirements on the State website.

After Board discussion, Greg Chandler made a motion to support the Resolution presented. Megan Christianson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **CARD CHECK**

Bud sent the Board information regarding the proposed Card Check legislation.

Several Board Members indicated that they did not receive the information.

Brandon Sharp explained the Card Check details to the best of his knowledge.

**ACTION:** Bud will resend the Card Check information and discussion will take place at the April 27, 2009 Board Meeting.

## **UPDATES**

Bud gave the following updates:

- The Workforce Investment Board drafted a Resolution opposing the Anti-mining legislation.
- The Post Labor Day School Start date was defeated at the Capitol but may show up in an omnibus bill.
- The Chamber's Annual Fishing Opener BBQ will be on May 8, 2009 at the Central School grounds.
- The Chamber's Golf Outing will be on July 23, 2009.
- Krazy Dayz will be July 16 – 18, 2009.
- The first annual Walleye Classic is on June 20, 2009.
- Canisteo Pit – The DNR has developed a plan and is working to get the Western Mining Planning board on the same page as them.

## **BIG BROTHER**

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

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

## **GROW MN PRESENTATION**

Bud explained to the Board that the Chamber used to participate in the Minnesota Chamber's Grow Minnesota Program. Due to the cost to participate in the program and the complexity of the survey involved and the fact that the survey was not tailored to what information we wanted to gather from our members, we dropped out of Grow Minnesota. The Membership Committee is still doing member visits, but with our own survey.

The Minnesota Chamber would like to see our Chamber get back involved with Grow Minnesota.

Bud stated that the cost for Grow Minnesota is \$1000 and that the Minnesota Chamber would like to come and do a presentation to the Board to try and get us back on board with them. The presentation would take place at the April 27, 2009 board meeting.

The Board had no objections to listening to the Minnesota Chamber's Presentation.

**ACTION:** Bud will invite the Minnesota Chamber to present at the April 27, 2009 Board Meeting.

**DUES RESTRUCTURING TASKFORCE UPDATE**

The Dues Restructuring Taskforce has met several times. Because of the complexity of the issue, they are not ready to offer any alternative dues structures at this time.

**ACTION:** The taskforce will continue to meet and give the Board updates as necessary.

**OTHER:**

Bud informed the Board that due to the Grand Rapids State Bank dropping their membership for 2009, Wayne Bruns has resigned his position on the Board effective immediately.

**ACTION:** The Nominating Committee will discuss a replacement for Wayne.

Gary McInerney made a motion to adjourn. Amy Trast seconded the motion; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.