

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce April 27, 2009

Present: Amy Trast, Sherry Frick, Cheryl Lemler, Margie Ritter, Peggy Schagh, Megan Christianson, Greg Chandler, Jake Goering, June Johnson, Gary McInerney, Kim Jamtgaard. David Marty, Chad Simons, Dave Leveille

Absent: Sholom Blake, Jane Bymark, Mike Iaizzo, Brandon Sharp, Lisa Randall

Chamber staff: Bud Stone, Renee Thompson, Kerry Larsen

Guests: Marla Beaty, Steve Arbour, Kathi Schaff

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

Jake Goering made a motion to approve the agenda. Bud Stone requested to add PLA discussion and Dues task force discussion to the agenda. Gary McInerney seconded the motion with the stated additions. Motion carried. Agenda approved.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Margie then asked for a motion to approve the March 30, 2009 meeting minutes.

June Johnson made a motion to approve the March 30, 2009 meeting minutes. David Marty asked the "catch phrase" be changed to "strap line" in the Branding update. Greg Chandler seconded the motion with said correction. Motion carried. Minutes approved.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

FINANCIALS AND DUES

Bud reviewed the March 2009 financials with the board members. Everything looks in order.

Bud then went through the remaining outstanding dues with board members.

Gary McInerney made a motion to accept the March financials. Jake Goering 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.

FORESTRY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Steve Arbour, Chair of the Chamber's Forestry Affairs Committee, gave the board an overview of the Committee's goals and mission and accomplishments.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Bud Stone, Chair of the Membership Committee, gave the board an overview of the committee and presented the board with the survey results of the committee's visits.

The survey is designed to identify trends businesses have in common.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

MN CHAMBER GROW MINNESOTA SURVEY

Kathi Schaff from the Minnesota Chamber gave a presentation on their survey program and explained the benefits of being part of the program.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

CARD CHECK DISCUSSION

Bud asked the board if they reviewed the card check information he sent them.

Board discussion took place whether the membership should be surveyed before taking a position on this.

There is concern that most of the membership is not familiar with card check and survey results would be low.

Kim Jamtgaard made a motion that the board make a decision on this without polling the membership. Gary McInerney seconded the motion. Motion carries.

After additional discussion, Greg Chandler made a motion to support the US Chamber and the Minnesota Chamber position opposing card check. Amy Trast seconded the motion. Motion carries.

ACTION: Bud will sign the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce on with the US Chamber and Minnesota Chamber.

WALLEYE CLASSIC UPDATE

Bud informed the board that commercials are running on Paul Bunyan, Mediacom and Range 11.

Raffle tickets for the boat raffle will be ready to sell by the end of the week. The MN Jaycees Foundation will be doing the drawing on June 19, 2009.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

BRANDING UPDATE

David Marty informed the Board that Cheri Zeplin will be starting as the Brand Administrator next week. She will be working about 8-10 hours per week.

David also asked the Board to mark their calendar for May 27, 2009. That is the day that Northstar will be in Grand Rapids to do a presentation.

David informed the Board that the After Labor Day School Start bill was defeated again at the legislature.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

VACATED BOARD POSITION

Bud asked the board if they wanted to form a committee to find a board replacement for Wayne Bruns, who resigned from the board.

After board discussion, David Marty recommended that since the by-laws state "a maximum of 18 board members" that Wayne's position not be filled at this time. He feels that it would be hard for board member to start mid year and if the board feels the open seat needs to be filled, that it be filled when replacing those whose term is up.

The board unanimously agreed.

ACTION: The open board seat will remain open until the Board feels it necessary to be filled.

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.

DUES RESTRUCTURING TASKFORCE UPDATE

The Dues Restructuring Taskforce has decided to survey the membership to get a better idea of how many employees each business has. After that information is compiled, the committee will meet again to discuss the next step.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

PLA DISCUSSION

Due to lack of time, PLA's have been tabled until the May meeting.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

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

Meeting adjourned.