

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce April 30, 2007 – Forest Lake Restaurant

Present: June Johnson, Karen Lindgren, Rick Utech, Kent Koerbitz, Margie Ritter, Roger Hoyum, Linda Gibeau, Amy Trast, Sherry Frick, Shannon Benolken, Cindy Feyder, Sholom Blake, Peggy Schagh, Michelle Rossi

Absent: Brandon Sharp, Jim Millis, Mike Birkeland, Lilah Crowe, Judy Nesvold, Mike Iaizzo,

Chamber staff: Bud Stone, Renee Thompson, Kerry Larsen, Carie Ann Olds

Karen Lindgren, Chair, called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the March 26, 2007 meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Margie Ritter made a motion to approve the March 26, 2007 meeting minutes. June Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carries.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

FINANCIALS

Bud reviewed the March financials with the board, stating we are on track with previous years as far as dues receivables are concerned.

Michelle Rossi made a motion to accept the March financials. Kent Koerbitz seconded the motion, motion carries.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

BRANDING UPDATE

Visit Grand Rapids, Itasca Economic Development Corporation, Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Grand Rapids all agreed to invest in the branding initiative. A grant for \$38,000 has also been submitted to the Blandin Foundation.

Bud Stone asked the Board of Directors to be thinking about changing the Chamber's name to reflect the area branding name, making the Chamber's name more regional, such as "Timber Lakes Regional Chamber of Commerce".

ACTION: No further action necessary.

BIG BROTHER NEW MEMBER PROGRAM

Updates were given from the board members who were able to make contacts with new members.

ACTION: Kerry Larsen will continue sending the board new members to contact.

DEPOT COMMONS PROPERTY TAXES

Bud gave an update on the status of the Depot Commons having to pay property taxes.

Bud explained that there is a reversionary title on the property. Currently the building expenses are being paid by Chamber rent income and the sale of Depot stock. In 2009, the Chamber will be solely responsible for the rent.

Board discussion led to the pros and cons of staying in the Depot building or moving to a new location.

Bud will be attending a property tax meeting on May 9, 2007 to further discuss the property tax issue.

Kent Koerbitz suggested forming a committee to discuss whether the Chamber should consider moving to a new location or remain in the Depot.

ACTION: No further action necessary at the present.

OTHER

Bud reminded the board of that the Chamber's Annual Fishing opener BBQ is on Friday, May 11, 2007 from 4-7 p.m. at the Central School grounds. The Chamber's Area Business Committee hosts the BBQ.

Bud referenced the email he sent to the membership regarding Governor Pawlenty's comment printed in the Hibbing paper stating he "wants to see Minnesota Steel & Iron infrastructure bonding scratched from this years bonding bill...". The project needs the \$30 Million in the bonding bill and needs the bonding bill to be passed. Essar Inc. (the company from India that intends to purchase Minnesota Steel) has indicated that they would need the infrastructure money guaranteed before financial close.

Bud encouraged the board members, who have not already done so, to e-mail the Governors Chief of Staff, Matt Kramer and the Commissioner of the IRR, Sandy Layman and ask them to do all they can to influence the Governor to sign the bonding bill with the \$30 Million dollars intact, for the Minnesota Steel plant infrastructure.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board of Directors meeting will be at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 29, 2007 at the Forest Lake.

Cindy Feyder made a motion to adjourn. Peg Schagh seconded the motion; motion carries. Meeting adjourned.