

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce May 26, 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, Sholom Blake, Jane Bymark, Lisa Randall

Absent: Mike laizzo, Brandon Sharp, Dave Leveille

Chamber staff: Bud Stone, Renee Thompson, Kerry Larsen

Guests: Marla Beaty, Ron Nelson, Karen Lindgren

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

David Marty asked to have a Branding update added to the agenda. Kim Jamtgaard asked to add "Steam on the Range" to the agenda.

Peggy Schagh made a motion to approve the agenda with the above added agenda items. Amy Trast seconded the motion. Motion carried. Agenda approved.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Margie then asked for a motion to approve the April 27, 2009 meeting minutes.

Gary McInerney made a motion to approve the April 27, 2009 meeting minutes. Jake Goering seconded the motion. Motion carried. Minutes approved.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

FINANCIALS AND DUES

Bud reviewed the April 2009 financials with the board members. It looks like the budget will break even.

Peggy Schagh made a motion to accept the April financials. June Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carries.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Ron Nelson, Chair of the Chamber's Transportation Committee, gave the board an overview of the Committee's goals and mission and accomplishments.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Karen Lindgren, Chair of the Chamber's Program Committee, gave the board an overview of the committee and what their purpose is.

Margie suggested that the Program Committee think about holding an event, such as an ice cream social or an open house for the for the membership.

ACTION: The Program Committee will discuss the possibility of having a ice cream social or an open house.

PLA DISCUSSION

Megan Christianson made a motion to have the Chamber take a position opposing the use of PLA's on Itasca County structural building projects. Sherry Frick seconded the motion.

Discussion took place regarding the motion. Motion carried with Jake Goering abstaining from voting.

ACTION: Bud will forward a resolution to the board for input.

MN CHAMBER GROW MINNESOTA SURVEY

The board discussed the presentation that Kathi Schaff presented to them at the April 2009 board meeting and the reasons why the Chamber decided to no longer participate in the MN Chamber's Grow Minnesota program. Reasons to participate in the Grow Minnesota program were also discussed. A partnership with Itasca Economic Development Corporation was also discussed.

ACTION: The board would like the Chamber's Membership Committee to discuss whether or not they would like to continue with the current survey process they are using or participate in the Grow Minnesota Program.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT JOB SKILLS SURVEY

Margie informed the board that an ad ran in Sunday's paper listing the Jobs Skills Survey web-link for businesses to take the Job Skills Survey.

Bud asked the board members to spread the word. Members and nonmembers are able to take the survey.

The Chamber's Workforce Development Committee will be presenting the results at the October Chamber luncheon.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

WALLEYE CLASSIC UPDATE

Bud provided the board with a copy of the current Walleye Classic budget and explained to the board how we are learning a lot this year to implement and make next year's event better.

Minnesota Jaycee's Raffle tickets for the boat raffle are now being sold.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

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.

BRANDING UPDATE

David Marty reminded the board that the branding research data is being presented on May 27, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. at the Sawmill.

ACTION: The board will discuss ways the Chamber can incorporate the city brand at the June board meeting.

"STEAM ON THE RANGE" TRAIN TOUR

Sherry Frick spoke about the National Train Association passenger tour event that will be stopping in Grand Rapids for two hours on August 15, 2009. Sherry recommended that the Chamber have ambassadors to greet the passengers and have extra staff on at the Depot.

Bud informed Sherry that we are aware of the train tour event and have already organized ambassadors and extra staff scheduled for the event.

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

Meeting adjourned.