

# MINUTES

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce June 26, 2006 – Forest Lake Restaurant

**Present:** Jim Millis, Karen Lindgren, Rick Utech, Margie Ritter, Jake Goering, Roger Hoyum, Peggy Schagh, Michelle Rossi, Sholom Blake, Cindy Feyder, Tom Osborn, Shannon Benolken, Mike Czeck, Linda Gibeau

**Absent:** Dale Anderson, Judy Nesvold, Chris Lynch, Kent Koerbitz, Mike laizzo, Mike Birkeland

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

Jim Millis, Chair, called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the May 30, 2006 meeting minutes.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Margie Ritter made a motion to approve the May 30, 2006 minutes. Peg Schagh seconded the motion; motion carries.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

### **FINANCIALS**

Bud Stone distributed and reviewed a mid-year budget report with the board; explaining many categories in detail.

Karen Lindgren made a motion to accept the May financials. Margie Ritter seconded the motion; motion carries.

**ACTION:** No further action necessary.

### **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT – ARLINGTON MODEL UPDATE - MARGIE RITTER**

Margie Ritter gave the board an overview of the meeting she attended in Arlington Texas with a delegation of Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce members.

During the visit there, the group was exposed to several working models that provided opportunities for the Grand Rapids Area Chamber to explore successes in both --- workforce and education. One of those specific initiatives focused on increasing the effectiveness of their State sponsored job bank, "Work In Texas". This particular model actually doubled the rate of usage by employers and employees within one year of its implementation and the model's principals have the ability to be used here in Minnesota.

The Chamber's Delegation group is currently reviewing the "take aways" from the trip and will provide additional communication as the information garnered from Arlington is synthesized, compared and brought to scale for a community of our size.

Paula Frings informed the board that the Workforce Development Committee received a two-year \$100,000 grant from the Blandin Foundation.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

### **FLOODWOOD BUSINESS**

Bud Stone informed the board that the Chamber was approached for membership by the Floodwood Business & Community Partnership.

The membership cost is \$30.00 per year. Their mission is to create a positive business environment, take a leadership role in community affairs, be an information resource for its members and help to provide a better quality of life for its citizens.

Jake Goering made a motion to join the Floodwood Business & Community Partnership. Margie Ritter seconded the motion; motion carries.

ACTION: Bud will take care of the necessary steps to join the Floodwood Business & Community Partnership.

### **GOVERNMENT MEMBERSHIPS**

Bud received a letter from Bob Olson, Itasca County Coordinator, and read the letter to the board.

The letter requested that the Chamber make a membership classification for governmental agencies, which would allow Itasca County, if it desired, to pay a single classification rate for membership. The membership would allow all Itasca County Board Members and Department Heads to be recognized as members of the Chamber.

Bud explained to the board that the Chamber currently does have a governmental category and asked the board if they wanted to create a new category based on Itasca Counties request.

Board discussion took place. No motion was made to make an additional category per Itasca County's request.

ACTION: Bud will draft a letter of response to Bob explaining the board's decision.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next Board of Directors meeting will be at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, July 31, 2006 at the Forest Lake Restaurant upstairs meeting room.

Cindy Feyder made a motion to adjourn. Margie Ritter seconded the motion; motion carries. Meeting adjourned.