



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 2, 2008

1:00 PM

### **PRESENT:**

Officers and Directors: Rick Herzog, Mike Anderson, Julie Anderson, Frank Christopherson, Jan Carl, Wendy Johnson, T. Janet Musgrove, Patrick Schifferdecker, Jade Fedder & Nicole Sebastian.

Chamber Members: Jack Klein, Agstar Mortgage Services; Mike Hughes, Red Rock Radio; and Todd Cummings, Todd's Custom Services.

### **AGENDA:**

President Herzog called the meeting to order at 1:08 PM.

#### **President's Topics**

Billboard Signs: President Herzog reported that the Billboard Campaign along Interstate 35 was successful. There are 5 billboards with 18 participating businesses that will be going up on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. The County Board has also removed the sign restrictions on the county roadways within Pine City for directional signs to be added to help visitors locate important landmarks and the Downtown Business District.

Community Fundraiser Cards: The Chamber is still searching for selling organizations for the Winter Edition. The Pine City Parent Teacher Organization that is forming may be interested in selling the spring edition of the card.

Java Joe's New Owner: Rick also reports that Java Joe's Bistro will have a new owner by the end of the week. Elsa North, former owner of Minnesota Real Estate Group, has purchased the coffee shop.

Pine County Courthouse Update: President Herzog announced that at the Pine County Board meeting earlier this morning, the County Commissioners voted to approve an offer to sell the former courthouse to the City of Pine City for the sum of \$50,000. The only stipulation to the offer is that a decision must be made by the City by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Executive Director Report**

Ambassador Visits: The next set of ambassador visits will be made on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 1:00 PM. Anyone wishing to participate should meet at the City Hall building for the first visit.

2009 Budget Approval: The 2009 budget was submitted at the November Board Meeting. Discussion of the proposed budget continued from last month with emphasis on the Community Fundraiser Cards. Rick asked Mike Hughes, Red Rock Radio Manager, if the radio would work the Chamber to sell the cards on the radio auction. Mike indicated that the details would need to be worked out, but he seemed to think that would be a viable option.

An additional discussion regarding whether or not the dues should be raised for 2009 yielded a decision not to make changes for the 2009 dues. The board felt that there wasn't sufficient time to make any changes and still allow the renewal invoices to be sent out at the end of this month. A motion was made (Schifferdecker) to put together a committee to look at restructuring of the dues for 2010, seconded (Christopherson) and motion passed. The committee will consist of Schifferdecker, Cummings, M. Anderson and Christopherson.



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Within the discussion of dues increases, another discussion regarding our membership benefits was also raised. Patrick noted that we don't offer a lot of direct benefits to our members. We do a great job with the community events, but we need to do a better job at creating benefits for our members - whether educational or member discounts. It was noted that we don't have a significant idea of the interest or needs of our members and without that knowledge we don't have an idea of where our resources should be concentrated. A suggestion of a written survey was made and Becky will work to begin developing one.

After no further discussion and upon recommendation of the budget committee, a motion was made (Musgrove) to approve the 2009 budget as submitted, seconded (Schifferdecker) and motion passed.

### **Business and Community Development:** (Frank Christopherson)

Frank reported that at the November meeting of the EDA more discussion of the courthouse and options for the City to use it were discussed. No formal recommendations were made regarding the courthouse. A purchase agreement is in place for the former Red Shed property. There was also discussion of a rental store looking to locate in Pine City.

Frank also reminded everyone of the regular "Coffee Break" that will be at Java Joe's Bistro next Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 AM.

### **Holiday Madness:** (TJ Musgrove)

TJ provided a brief recap of the events that are planned for the Friday evening event. There were a few additional areas that would require an additional volunteer. Thank you to Patrick for stepping in and taking on the hot chocolate and cookies for the high school choir. Thank you to Lori and Kerri for volunteering to assist with the parade line-up.

### **Other Business:**

Julie Anderson, chairperson for the Lifestyle Show, is looking for volunteers to man the booth at the event on January 30 and 31. Please sign up for a two hour shift with her.

Mike Anderson asked about grant opportunities with the Pine Area Endowment. He will work with Becky to research this avenue of income.

Mayor Jane Robbins was in attendance at the meeting and questioned the board about the possibility of the Chamber taking over the sponsorship of the Freedom Fest event in 2009. Rick requested that we table this discussion and add the item to the January agenda.

Motion to adjourn at 1:55 PM