



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 7, 2008

1:00 PM

PRESENT:

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

Chamber Members: Mayor Jane Robbins and Don Howard, City of Pine City; Chad Faur, Mac-Clair Mortgage; Marcia Howard, Pamida; Todd Cummings, Todd's Custom Services; and Ron Tengwall, Northwoods Bank.

Guests: Alyssa Prater, East Central Regional Library

AGENDA:

President Herzog called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

President's Topics

Guest Speaker, Alyssa Prater: President Herzog welcomed our guest to talk briefly about the new program that will begin at the East Central Regional Libraries this fall. Alyssa reported that the ECRL has received 2 grants to begin using in our region. Her new position with the library will be to coordinate a series of classes as part of the "Digital Immigrants" grant funding. Through this program, people who desire to learn more about the "technology-age" will be given an opportunity to do so, free of charge. The classes will range in topics from learning what "Digital TV" is all about, to using a digital camera, to creating and using an email account. For more information on these classes, contact the Pine City Branch directly or watch for information to be released on the Chamber Website Calendar.

November Meeting: Due to our November meeting falling on election day, the community room will be unavailable for our meeting date. We have rescheduled the meeting to a different location on November 4th. The meeting will be at Red Dog Billy's Bar and Grill at 1 PM.

Holiday Madness: This event does not currently have a chairperson and planning for the event should begin later this month. A committee was formed: TJ Musgrove, Cindy Bostrom-Dahlin, Mike Anderson and Todd Cummings.

Annual Banquet: Planning for the banquet continues and things seem to be going smoothly. Tickets will be available through Friday, October 24th. The tickets will be \$20 each or 2 for \$36.

Billboard Information: Rick has contacted various businesses in Pine City that might be interested in participating in a cooperative effort to create "Downtown Pine City" billboards along Interstate 35. Rick has requested a contribution of \$1200 over the next 3 years from the EDA to offset the cost to each of the businesses. Currently there will be 5 billboards with 4 businesses on each. The next step will be to request the assistance of the county to place Directional Signs for these businesses.

Executive Director's Report:

New Members: Since our September meeting we have welcomed Betsy Carpenter, Mary Kay Cosmetics; Todd Cummings, Todd's Custom Services; Pit Stop Auto Repair; Pine Center



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for the Arts; Pokegama Physical Therapy Consultants; and Gross Productions as new members.

Member Survey: There has been much discussion over the past several weeks on ways we can get more member involvement and input on the decisions we make regarding support of various community initiatives. One example would be of the Lodging Tax information that was presented by the City. It would be nice to have a mechanism in place to survey our members to get their thoughts and opinions on such matters.

It is with that in mind that Becky began researching some online survey companies. She has been testing one such site that offers free online surveys that would be created and then a link can be emailed to our members. This of course, poses the question of whether or not our Chamber Members have provided their email address and that they will respond to such inquiries.

It was determined that our first step will need to be gathering email addresses for a larger portion of our members. The Chamber will roll out a "Go Green" campaign this fall that we hope will encourage more businesses to provide their email address so that we can begin using member surveys. Other uses in the future could include sending out the first round of membership renewals via email.

Treasurer's Report: A copy of the October Treasurer's report was provided to all members present at the meeting. The expenses paid out include many of the bills for the Citizen of the Year reception. A payment to Zuhrah Shrine Cobra Corp was also included. They contacted the Chamber office in September indicated that they had not received a payment. Becky reviewed the bank account and the check has not cleared the bank. A motion was made (Flaherty) to place a stop payment on the original check paid out to the Zuhrah group, motion seconded (Musgrove), and motion passed. A motion was also made (Flaherty) to accept and approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, second (MAnderson), and approved.

Business & Community Development Report: (Frank Christopherson)

Frank reminded those in attendance that the next "Coffee Break" networking opportunity will be next Tuesday, October 14 at 7:30 AM at Java Joe's Bistro.

The Planning Commission was notified that the new post office will be ready in mid-December, but due to the holiday and the increase in postal service during that time, the move to the new location is scheduled for January 1, 2009.

At the EDA meeting last month there is continued discussion of the Courthouse status and possible use by the City of Pine City. No action will be taken until after the November election. The Lodge group is still interested in locating in the Pine City area, but is experiencing some problems with the current proposed location. There is some frustration with the developer of the property and alternate locations and plans are being considered.

Frank provided some brochures and information on a group called S.C.O.R.E. The group is made up of retired executives that offer free help to businesses. They have a nationwide presence and website. They can provide help with Business Plans and developing new ideas among other things.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: *Tuesday, November 4, 2008 at 1:00 PM*
Red Dog Billy's Bar & Grill