

**Coloma Watervliet Area Chamber of Commerce
Minutes February 13, 2007
Board of Trade**

Members Present: Sandy Kraemer, Joan Bujack, Deb Shannon, Maria DiPrima, Lee Scherwitz , Edith Munchow, Doug & Deb Bates, Jennifer Sipla, Ken Sutton, Charlie Stein, Sue Moser, Josh Hinch, Lynette Bittner, Matt Moser, Merle Bujack and Chana Kniebes

Call to Order and Introductions: President Kraemer called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Bujack and supported by Stein to approve the January 9th, 2007 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Kniebes reported that there is \$13,646.99 as of January 31, 2007 in the chamber checking account and \$3,582.70 in the chamber savings account. Bills paid in the month of January total \$660.00. A motion was made by Bujack and supported by Moser to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

New Officers: A motion was made by Scherwitz and supported by Stein to appoint Thelma Evett from H & R Block move to the position of secretary and Debra Shannon of Fifth Third Bank in Watervliet move to the position of Vice-President. Motion carried.

Membership Report: Kniebes reported that there are 125 total chamber members. Matthew's Heating and Air Conditioning and Berrien Teacher's Credit Union are the newest chamber members. Welcome Baskets were delivered to the wHAIRhouse which is a hair salon in downtown Watervliet.

Old Business:

Budget 2007: Stein and Scherwitz passed out copies of the new chamber budget for 2007. The budget remains basically the same with some fluctuation in expenses. A motion was made by Moser and supported by Bujack to accept the CWACC 2007 budget as presented. Motion carried.

Red Arrow Signage: Scherwitz shared with board members that Hick's sign could do a double panel for any business wanting that option to fit more information on a single side. The cost of the rental would then be \$300.00 instead of \$150.00 per year. A motion was made by Scherwitz and supported by Hinch to allow larger sign space on the Red Arrow Sign. Motion carried.

Map Project. The proof of the map was passed around to the chamber members at the meeting and corrections were noted on the proof. Kniebes will mail back the proof to Novoprint and the map will immediately go to print with an expected delivery time of March 5th. If everyone pays for their ad the chamber will make \$2,254.00 profit on the map. A motion was made by Bujack and supported by Hinch to accept the map proof with the changes indicated. Motion carried.

Business Recognition Tribute: The Business Recognition Committee met and chose the three businesses that are the winners of the awards. The event will take place on March 22, 2007 at the Board of Trade. There will be a cash bar and a charge of \$5.00 at the door for heavy appetizers which begin at 6:00 p.m. There will be a brief program beginning at 7:00 p.m. and Matt Moser will be the MC for the program. Anyone wishing to attend should RSVP to Chana at the chamber office so we can have an accurate count.

New Business:

Kelly Miller Circus: The Kelly Miller Circus could come to the Coloma Watervliet Area again in August of 2007. President Kraemer was contacted by the circus inquiring if we would like to host this popular fundraiser again. Since the circus would no longer be able to be in the previous spot it held at the Great Lakes Antique Mall other options would have to be pursued. A committee was formed to look at details

and options available. The Chair of the Circus Committee will be Jennifer Sipla, Maria DiPrima and Josh Hinch will also be a part of the committee. Maria suggested that maybe the circus could be held outside of Deer Forest. The committee will find out how much space is actually required for the circus and report back at the next chamber meeting.

Deer Forest: Maria DiPrima from Deer Forest reported on the difficulty she is having receiving a permit for billboards that Deer Forest has always held in the past. She inquired if the chamber would be willing to provide a letter of support to the state and other representatives to get the problem resolved. A motion was made by Bujack and supported by Hinch to offer a letter of support. Motion carried. Kniebes has drafted a letter of support and will forward it on to Maria for approval once she finds out what should be included in the letter.

HP Tour Guide Ad: A motion was made by Bujack and supported by Stein to purchase a business card size ad for no more than \$236.00 in the Herald Palladium 2007 Tour Guide publication. Motion carried.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Scherwitz and supported by Bujack to adjourn the meeting at 12:51. Motion carried.

The next regular chamber meeting will be held on March 13, 2007 12 noon at the Friendly Tavern.

Respectfully submitted,

Chana Kniebes, Recording Secretary