

Coloma Watervliet Area Chamber of Commerce
Minutes May 8th, 2007
Friendly Tavern

Board Members Present: Sandy Kraemer, Pat Moody, Charlie Stein, Tom Gear, Lee Scherwitz, Matt Moser

Board Members Absent: Debra Shannon, Thelma Evett and Ken Sutton

Members: Rick Warner, , Richard Martinez, Joan Bujack, , Rick Rasmussen, Sue Moser, Scott Twiss, Dave Scheuer, Deb and Doug Bates, and Chana Kniebes

Others Present: Melissa Stamp, Carlos Laverty and Jim Polashak

Call to Order and Introductions: President Kraemer called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Moser and supported by Scherwitz to approve the March 13, 2007 and April 10th minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: There is \$3,584.86 as of April 30, 2007 in the chamber savings account and \$12,242.94 in the chamber checking account. Bills paid in the month of April total \$1,639.65

Membership Report: Kniebes reported that there are 129 total chamber members. Lake Michigan College, JD's Marine and Duffield's and Pastrick Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services are our newest chamber members.

Old Business:

Kelly Miller Circus Update: Kniebes reported that Circus Chair Jennifer Sipla is still waiting to hear back from Watervliet Hospital as well as the old mill site as a possible location for the circus. Other suggestions were the old Watervliet High School site and the property directly behind the church that is right near the drive to Community Hospital. If there is no location set by next month, the circus will not be an option for this year.

Coloma Carousel Horse: After much discussion this item was tabled.

New Business:

Festival Donations: A motion was made by Moser and supported by Bujack to donate \$250.00 each to the Independence Weekend Celebration in Watervliet and the Coloma Glad Peach festival as we have done in the past. Motion carried.

Business After Hours: Berrien Teachers Credit Union will be holding their Business After Hours on June 6 from 5-7 p.m. The official opening day of the credit union will be June 4th.

Amendment of bylaws for quorum: A committee of Scherwitz and Kraemer along with help from Joan Bujack will look into a change to our current bylaws so that possible alternate board members for voting could be in place if the quorum is not met for a meeting. More information will be available at the next meeting.

Parade of Homes: On July 26th there will be the Southwest Michigan Home Builders Annual Parade of Homes Business After Hours. This year it will be at the new River Oaks subdivision in Watervliet. The CWAEDC and the CWACC were approached to help host the event this year because Cornerstone Chamber has a conflict with another Business After Hours. The location will be set up with tents and wonderful food and wine for attendees. During the evening you can also buy your Parade of Home Tickets for a 2 for 1 price. The responsibilities to the Chamber and EDC would be putting together a mailing about the event to chamber members and VIPs and having a table staffed for registration from 5-7 p.m. There

would be no cost associated for the event that would not be reimbursed. Scherwitz volunteered to chair this event along with Kraemer and Jim Polashak from the EDC. Kniebes will help with all prep work before the event.

Workplace Training: Rick Warner from Lane Automotive shared with board members that he does do consulting and has put together various Human Resources training sessions that benefit businesses with 1 or more employees. He would be willing to present an hour program free of charge during a lunchtime event. President Kraemer thanked Warner for the offer and thought it would be very interesting. A tentative date of July 19th has been set with the location to be determined but could be at the Friendly or the Lion's Building was another option. Kniebes will keep in touch with Warner for more information and to promote the event in our June newsletter.

Ribbon Cutting: Kniebes announced that she was just informed of a Ribbon Cutting in the new subdivision off of Lewis Street in Watervliet Wednesday May 9th at 11:30 a.m. Chris Marzke is one of our chamber members and has built a house where the event will take place at lot #40. If anyone can attend the event it would be greatly appreciated.

Resolution to Support Michigan Budget and Business Tax Laws: (Full resolution on file)

Scherwitz forwarded on a resolution for approval by the chamber board and signature by President Kraemer. The resolution basically states that the Michigan Single Business Tax which will sunset on December 31st of 2007 needs to be replaced in a timely manner. A motion was made by Scherwitz and supported by Rasmussen to accept and support this resolution with amendments indicated. Motion carried.

Miscellaneous:

Lane Car Show: Warner reminded chamber members that the annual Cruise and Car Show is May 25 & 26th at Lane Automotive. This event draws over 10,000 visitors every year.

Warner also mentioned that he now sits as a board member of Community Hospital and appreciates the fine job they do and what an asset they are to our community at the same time if there are questions or concerns please let him know so that any issues can be addressed.

North Berrien Historical Museum: Rasmussen mentioned the Museum has officially hired a Curator/Director and hopefully he will be able to attend next month's chamber meeting so we can meet him.

Identity Theft: Bujack shared with chamber members of an instance recently where there were individuals taking pictures of tombstones in the Bainbridge Cemetery who had no reason for being there and it was thought they may be trying to get names and dates for identity theft purposes. Just a reminder to be diligent with information that others can get, and to also shred any information that is going in your trash that others can steal to get personal information about you or family members.

New Businesses in Coloma: Kniebes reported that she noticed the Flavors ice cream business had a sold sign on it and the former Nelson's Barber Shop behind the Friendly has been purchased and is being remodeled for another barber shop.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Kniebes and supported by Scherwitz to adjourn the meeting at 12:57 p.m.

The next regular chamber meeting will be held on June 12th, 2007 12 noon at the Board of Trade.

Respectfully submitted,

Chana Kniebes, Recording Secretary