

Board of Directors' Meeting

March 27, 2007

The board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce in Culver met at the Culver Coffee Shop with members, Mike Stallings, Ralph Winters, Ben Schaller, Judi Dodge and Dawn Minas present. Also in attendance were Jon Guenin and Bobbie Ruhnnow.

President Stallings called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM. The minutes of the February, 2007 meeting were approved on a motion by Dodge seconded by Winters.

Treasurer's Report

Schaller gave a brief financial update. He said there is a slight variance of \$188 in projected income and expenses. Membership dues have not met expectations for March with approximately 29 members still unpaid or about ¼ of the membership.

Farmers' Market Update

Barb Linhart, market master, referred to a letter from Dr. Bailey to Tompos concerning the use of his lot for the market this summer. Dr. Bailey requested that no vehicles park on the lot. Linhart explained how difficult it was for vendors to unload their tables and product if they couldn't drive onto the lot. She said they would not keep their vehicles parked there, but needed access for loading and unloading. Schaller said he would contact Dr. Bailey to see if there was a compromise solution.

Linhart addressed parking concerns and noted the Culver police were expected to cooperate by allowing street parking during market hours.

Tompos agreed that a sign advertising Farmers' Market, Sat. 8-12, would be posted on the Welcome sign on Lake Shore.

Linhart said she anticipated 29 vendors. The cost is \$5.00 per 10 ft. slot and \$60 for the season.

Membership Discussion

Ruhnnow advised the board of some anomalies in the way members interpreted the dues structure. One member with three businesses paid \$285 (\$95. per business). Another member with a Level 1 business paid \$95. She noted these were just two examples of some confusion in the dues structure.

Ruhnnow said she was sending out dues reminders to the 29 unpaid members and anticipated most of them would respond.

Board members discussed the question asked by some members "What does the Chamber do for me." Noted that without the member input at meetings, it was difficult to determine what the member wanted the Chamber to do for them. Winters noted he thought of Chamber membership as a "privilege tax". The board agreed that the purpose of the Chamber was "What can we do for the community?"

Minas said the publicity committee was working on a Culver brochure that she felt would be an incentive to membership. She will bring the prototype to the April board meeting.

Other Business

Stallings noted a request from Bruce Rearick, Director of Instruction at Swan Lake, asking for a relocation packet.

Members discussed the lack of housing available in the Culver area. Winters inquired if the Dillon Farm parcels would be developed anytime in the near future. Tompos said it was still a possibility but infrastructure costs are always a factor in development.

Dodge requested the winter banners be taken down.

The Top Ten Banquet arrangements are being finalized by Minas.

The board declined a request from BPA for a donation for students' expenses to the National competition but would encourage individual member donations. Recognized the opening of the Diva shop and Gladys Deli on Main Street and agreed that some form of ribbon cutting, welcome ceremony should be arranged.

Tompos will contact Medallion Cabinetry for their membership dues.

Dodge suggested a tote bag with scenes of Culver and Lake Maxinkuckee might be a moneymaking project for the Chamber.

Schaller and Guenin have created a community calendar that is linked to the Chamber's web site.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 AM.

Bobbie Ruhnnow
Executive Secretary