

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN CULVER

Board of Directors Meeting – June 24, 2008

The board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce in Culver met for their monthly meeting at the Culver Coffee Company. Members present were: Mike Stallings, president, Greg Fassett, vice-president, Ralph Winters, Rick Tompos, Ron May, Dawn Minas, Dick Brantingham and Ben Schaller, treasurer. Bobbie Ruhnnow, secretary, was also in attendance.

Stallings called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM. The minutes of the May meeting were approved as presented on a motion by Tompos seconded by Schaller.

Treasurer's Report

Schaller presented the treasurer's report noting that revenues to date were \$11,801 with expenses totaling \$9,589 – a net of \$2,212. Comparing totals to the projected budget for 2008, Schaller noted that dues revenue was down approximately \$1,000. Top Ten Banquet revenues exceeded expenses and it was not necessary to bill Kiwanis. Primary expenses included the newsletter where the net cost to the Chamber was \$1,002 and advertising in the Marshall County Visitors' Guide at a cost of \$2,000. The deficit for the 2008 budget may be \$5,000 depending on revenue realized from the car raffle proceeds.

Board members discussed earmarking a project for Second Century and agreed that the budget would be reviewed at the end of the year and a decision made at that time. A Second Century project will have the priority. The treasurer's report was accepted on a motion by Winters seconded by Brantingham.

Farmers' Market

Tompos reported on the tent used for the Farmers' Market. He discussed the condition of the tent with Jane King who had repaired the tent prior to its' being erected for the 2008 season. King said the tent had incurred dry rot and felt it could not be salvaged for an additional year's use. A new tent for 2009 will be a necessity.

Second Century Committee report

Brantingham reported on a recent SCC meeting held with Kiwanis. Brantingham is vice-chairman of the SCC Steering Committee. The community wide seminar held in 2007 was discussed with the goal of including organizations to adopt a special project toward community enhancement. Jack Cunningham, present chairman of SCC, has indicated he wished to "step down" from the chair. Kathy Clark, secretary of the group, also wishes to retire. Tompos suggested that a co-directorship of himself and Brantingham be proposed. The SCC committee will arrange a slate of officers and report accordingly.

New Business

Stallings reported that Chuckie Strang had contacted him to say she would no longer be the representative for selecting Real Meal participants from Chamber

membership. Periodically, different organizations provide servers for Real Meal lunches on selected Wednesdays.

The tickets for the GEM e4 cars' raffle being held under the auspices of the Culver Kiwanis have been distributed to Chamber members. Chamber tickets are yellow and stubs and money will be given to Ben Schaller, treasurer.

Stallings will contact Dick Swennumson, Kiwanis president, to arrange having a car at the Culver Coffee Co. and at the Farmers' Market for the June 28 weekend. Stallings has advised the cars will be available from 8 to noon and Minas will sell at the Coffee Co. and May will sell at the Farmers' Market.

A discussion of a ribbon-cutting event for new businesses was held. Stallings spoke with Susie Mahler, a realtor with Collins & Co. who was enthused about the idea. Businesses targeted would be Collins & Co., Gladie's Deli, and the Culver Cobana. Schaller suggested it could be done on one weekend and the local paper could showcase one business each week. Minas noted that an additional new business would be opening on July 1, at the corner of Jefferson and S. Main St. Larry Brockey will be opening an insurance agency for the Erie & Wolverine Insurance Companies. A downtown merchant will be asked to participate in the ceremonies as well as a representative of the Culver town council.

Winters, a town council member, said that Lake Shore Drive would be resurfaced this summer. Minimum impacts on area merchants are anticipated, as one lane of traffic will be kept open at all times.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 AM.

Bobetta Ruhnow
Executive Secretary