

Chamber of Commerce in Culver

Board of Directors Organizational Meeting

January 30, 2010

President Greg Fassett convened the 2010 organizational meeting at 10 AM with directors, Rick Tompos, Scott Huberty, Dawn Minas Brockey, vice-president, Ralph Winters, Tony Sellers and Ben Schaller, treasurer in attendance. Also present, Bobbie Ruhnow, secretary. Directors Mike Stallings, Dick Brantingham and Ron May were absent.

Fassett noted that he had received a call inquiring if Culver had any interest in forming a county wide Chamber. Directors agreed that there was no interest at this time.

Destination Culver

The board discussed the switch from Bowen Printing to Town & Country for the Fall/Winter edition of Destination Culver. The issue was well received and there were no apparent problems. Schaller reported that the comparison between the Spring issue of \$1832 and Fall issue of \$1238 showed substantial savings. Additionally, the printing of the envelopes by Ruhnow and stuffing and sealing by Millers Merry Manor had been handled by the vendor.

Ruhnow advised she would continue for 2010 to edit the newsletter and the board agreed to investigate Town & Country handle the input as well as publishing and mailing for 2011. The board will also consider raising the cost of an article from the present \$50. For now, we will continue to keep the newsletter as a two color publication and limit logos.

Fund Raising for 2010

Fassett asked if the board would approve expanding the Nine and Wine golf outing at Mystic Hills as a fund raiser. A tent could be set up for five or more Indiana based wine vendors. Susie Jamieson would be interested in helping. Funding for the Farmer's Mkt. Tent is a priority and Taste of Culver proceeds are dedicated to this project, also. The board agreed to look for sponsors at a cost of \$100 each with a goal of \$1,000. Any amount over this would go to our general fund. If attendees not interested in joining the Chamber at \$75, they could contribute to the project. Sellers suggested an easel/board to advertise the event which could be displayed at different venues. Date for the event would be the weekend before Memorial Day.

Fassett suggested a long range planning and fund raising for a Culver Chamber scholarship fund. Both Winters and Schaller voiced agreement to begin research and development of a long range plan for fund raising for a Culver Chamber scholarship fund. It was suggested that the proceeds from fund raising through Taste of Culver, Nine and Wine, and the Kiwanis Raffle held on Labor Day could be dedicated to a scholarship fund that could be awarded at the Top Ten Dinner.

Tompos agreed to make the board for the Nine and Wine and assist in fundraising with a 50/50 raffle. Sellers will assist on sponsorships, Brockey will make flyers and Winters will distribute. Huberty noted that a Wine and Cheese shop will open at the former office of Cultice Insurance and could be included in the event. A motion by Tompos seconded by Fassett approved the arrangements.

Farmers' Market Tent

Tompos updated the board on the new Farmers' Market tent structure. There will be a clear plastic pull down on the sides. The hours and Chamber sponsorship will be included in the tent fabric. The tent needs to be ordered by February and will cost between \$2000 and \$2500. A motion by Winters seconded by Huberty to allow the expense up to \$3,000 was approved.

Dinner Meetings

Brockey has asked to be relieved of arranging dinner meetings for 2010. Fassett thanked her for the three years she has been in charge. Huberty suggested that perhaps Donna Huberty would assist. Since this is an election year, Ruhnow suggested a Candidate's Night be arranged for October and invite the public. There are several Chamber members who will be on the ballot. Membership letters should be sent to all Culver restaurants noting that hosting one dinner meeting would pay for the membership fee. Presently, Gladie's, Café Max, Culver Coffee Shop, Original Root Beer Stand and the Culver Marina's restaurant belong. The Antiquarian and Historical Society would like to host a dinner meeting soon with a tour of the new museum. Dinner could be catered at the CUTPL's meeting room. The AHS should be asked to renew their Chamber membership it was noted. Dinner meetings are fairly well covered with Nine and Wine, Top Ten, and possible meetings at Portside, Culver Marina, etc.

Miscellaneous

Tompos showed a handout generated by the Frankenmuth Insurance Agency and wondered if the Chamber could produce a similar brochure. The Blueberry Festival vendor chairman asked if the Culver Chamber would be interested in participating in the information booth at the festival. Fassett said it would be a good way to sell raffle tickets for the Kiwanis raffle. Tompos noted that special tents were constructed on the fairway for the sole purpose of raffle tickets. Fassett will check with the Blueberry Festival Ex. Director and verify their rules for sale of raffle tickets. If ticket sales are allowed at the Blueberry Festival; Fassett will check with other community organizations to see if they would be willing to help staff a booth at the Festival. The Kiwanis raffle prizes will be a golf ready cart for 800 tickets sold and a jet ski on trailer for the sale of 2000 tickets. Ruhnow noted an important question on the fall election ballot could seriously impact Culver's governmental funding. Noting that Union Township funded 50 percent of the fire budget and 60 percent of the EMS budget and presently had a comfortable surplus, that eliminating township trustees and advisory boards could cause a budget crisis for Culver. All emergency vehicles are jointly owned and the Town of Culver would have to buyout the township's share or depend on funding from Marshall County. Surplus funds in the township's budget would revert to Marshall County. Sellers will be replanting the area around the Welcome to Culver sign. Tompos and Winters will assist in power washing the limestone sign. Tompos noted his interest in assuming the Secretary's position in 2011.

Marshall County Visitors Guide

Schaller noted that the budget for 2010 included the \$2,000 fee for the Marshall County Visitors' Guide. Noting that, despite repeated requests, we were not given editorial review of our article. The article remains the same, year to year, the pictures included do not give a good representation of the local community and copies of the Guide were not delivered to local merchants or the Chamber despite the estimated \$17,000 the local community paid. The publisher did talk to Pam Fisher and there will be a further roundtable discussion on Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 10 AM with Fisher, Fassett, Brockey and Ruhnow. A motion made by Winters seconded by Schaller to ask that we have a one year free cost period and editorial review was approved. The response will determine future participation in the Guide.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM
Bobbie Ruhnow, Executive Secretary