

Chamber of Commerce in Culver

Board of Directors Meeting

February 23, 2010

The board of directors for the Chamber of Commerce in Culver met at the Culver Coffee Company with members Greg Fassett, Ben Schaller, Dawn Minas Brockey, Tony Sellers, Scott Huberty, Ralph Winters and Rick Tompos present. Mike Stallings, Ron May and Dick Brantingham were absent. Also in attendance, Bobbie Ruhnow, executive secretary. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 AM by Fassett, president.

The first order of business discussed was the venue for the Top Ten banquet to be held on April 6. On a motion by Tompos seconded by Winters it was approved that the banquet remains at the Pretty Lake Church. Schaller noted that we co-host with the Culver Kiwanis but proceeds from last year's dinner covered the total cost of the banquet and gifts and no funds were requested from Kiwanis. The total for gifts was \$219 and it is estimated a similar cost for this year. Sponsors' donations were discussed and a proposal that each sponsor, Ancilla, Coca Cola of Plymouth, and Millers Merry Manor as well as Kiwanis be asked for a donation of \$250. A possible scholarship, monetary gift, teacher recognition award discussion was tabled until the March meeting.

Committees for the Nine and Wine outing scheduled for May were determined. Fassett and Brockey will chair the event. Tompos and Sellers will be in charge of the sponsorships and Sellers will have signs made for the hole sponsors. Tentative amount for the hole sponsorships was set at \$100. Huberty will be in charge of publicity for the event. Wine vendors are being contacted and it is hoped that at least three different vendors will be present. Notice of the event will be placed in the Culver Citizen and on our web site as soon as the date is determined and the vendors' acceptance received.

An update on the Taste of Culver was tabled until the Stallings return. It was suggested that an article about the event be placed in the spring/summer issue of Destination Culver.

Membership letters and invoices have been sent and the deadline for remittance is March 15th. Membership stickers have been ordered from Bowen Printing and will be sent with thank you cards when dues are received.

Fassett reported on a meeting held with Alliance Marketing representatives, Mike Woolfington, Brockey and Ruhnow on our issues with the 2009 Marshall County Visitors Guide. Primary concerns were the lack of editorial review by the Chamber, more emphasis on the Academy than local businesses, and distribution of copies locally. Woolfington reported that he had personally delivered 8 cases to the Culver area and would be glad to distribute as many as

requested in the future. After the meeting, Fassett sent the following motion by e-mail to all directors:

"The Culver Chamber will continue our support of the MCCVB and the guide at a reduced rate for the next three years not exceeding \$1,500 per year. In addition, we will make payment for our inclusion in the guide only after two conditions are met. First, we proof read and approve the content of the pictures and accompanying article. Second, we will not release payment for the Visitors' Guide until it is in print and delivery of copies made to the Culver community."

The motion was approved by reply unanimously. Directors agreed that the publicity generated by the Marshall County Tourism Bureau was advantageous to Culver business. It was noted that Francis Ellert is Culver's representative on the MCCVB and could be contacted with concerns.

Sellers, Tompos and Winters will clean the Welcome to Culver sign in the April clean-up week. Sellers has been responsible for maintaining the landscaping of all the Welcome signs in the Culver area.

The budget will be presented to the membership at the March 2 meeting at the Culver Academies Museum and Gift Shop. Schaller, treasurer, advised that we are facing a budget shortfall. The deficit for 2009 was \$4,000. Major outlays for 2010 will be \$3,000 for a Farmers' Market tent and \$1,500 for the MCVB visitors' guide. The Nine and Wine and Taste of Culver events plus participation in the Kiwanis raffle should generate enough money to cover the outlay. The directors tabled the discussion of removing funds from the Marshall County Community Foundation and investing in a local bank.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 AM

Bobbie Ruhnow
Executive Secretary