

Albert Lea / Freeborn County
Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, June 22, 2016 – 7:30 a.m.
Czech Inn Bed & Breakfast

MINUTES

Present: Jeff Woodside, Randy Kehr, Adenuga Atewologun, Kathy Sabinish, George Gonzalez, Jeff Eaton, Kim Nelson, Catherine Buboltz, Amy Davis, Tricia Dahl, Julia Thompson, Angie Kolker

Ex-Officios Present: Susie Petersen, Jerry Gabrielatos, Ryan Cafourek, Brett Behnke/Leah Lawrence

Excused: Randy Cirksena, Justin Oman

Absent: Jenny Iverson

Guest:

Consent Items

1. Chair Jeff Woodside called the meeting to order at 7:34.
2. The May minutes were presented. A motion was made to approve the minutes and was seconded by Angie Kolker. The motion carried.
3. The May financials were presented. Randy K. reported that it was a good month. We have signed up four new members since this report came out. There were no extraordinary expenses and we continue to put money aside for a new office. Parade and Golf money is coming in now. For the parade, we will be bringing back all paid entertainment. John Severson was named the Grand Marshal of the Parade. Friday Focus sales have gone well. Amy Davis made a motion to accept the financials and was seconded by Angie Kolker. The motion carried.

Action Items:

There were no Action Items this month.

• **Reports:**

County:

- There was no report.

City:

- Jerry Gabrielatos thanked everyone for the donations to the Dog Park. It was dedicated last weekend and has already proved very popular.

- Jerry is busy doing Small Cities Development Grant work. They start taking applications next week.
- He also graduated Leadership yesterday and challenges others to show involvement. He would like to see a way to utilize graduates as soon as they graduate. Kim stated that it would be helpful to know what projects or efforts that Leadership graduates have been involved in during the last 10 years and suggested a reunion of all graduates.

Shell Rock River Watershed:

- Brett Behnke introduced Leah Lawrence of the Watershed who is covering outreach. They have been fielding a lot of questions regarding the dredging project. All land agreements have been signed and there will be a 12 inch pipe that will run along the path of the previous Edgewater cleanup to land purchased by the Watershed for their CDF. During dredging, the silt will be pumped through this pipe to the CDF. They will need to bore a path under the road in the park to keep the pipe on the path and not disrupt visitors to the park.
- Right now, the Watershed Board is working on where to start. It comes down to production and Brett feels that they will choose Edgewater Bay as Phase 1 and target the start next summer. The entire project will take 5-7 years and Phase 1 will take 2-3 years. They shouldn't have to do this drastic a project again.
- In response to a question by the Board, Brett explained that the new dam has not lowered the lake level and that state law does not allow it to. It is possible that they could do a draw down for a specific reason, however that would require permissions from many state agencies and landowners and be difficult to achieve.

Ambassadors:

- Ryan Cafourek reported that there has only been one visit this month and that was to Senior Resources in their new home at 314 S. Broadway. They will visit Copper Kitchen next week.
- Ryan thanked the Board for their help with the Fireworks Fundraiser. The goal was \$17,000 and we were just shy of that goal with \$16,500 in donations received.
- There is an Ambassador Golf Outing meeting today and Ryan encouraged anyone who has not already signed up to do so. They can do this online or through a link on last week's Friday Focus. The Ambassadors will be checking the tents after the meeting today. The Golf Outing is on July 18th with a rain date of July 25th.

ALEDA:

- Randy reported that Ryan has been very busy. Unfortunately, we came in second on one project and that was because they wanted to closer to their home office.

CVB:

- Susie Petersen reported that there were about 100 cars for the Cruise In for Eddie Cochran Weekend on Friday and 180 cars downtown on Saturday. It was a very successful event all the way through.
- Wind Down Wednesday had their biggest crowd ever and the biggest draw was the splash pad. Set up with the Fire Department. T-shirts were sold and Kiwanis sold Kettle Corn to help fund a new permanent splash pad.
- Relay for Life is July 29th.
- There will be a Bike Trail dedication for Hayward Days that covers the part of the trail from Hayward to Albert Lea Lake.
- The Just Play Festival will be this Saturday and there will be a dedication of the State Water Trail at 12:30 with dignitaries. Also included at the event are the Bike Rodeo, a splash pad, the Poker Walk, games and fun for the whole family. Susie encouraged everyone to attend.
- The marathon runners who were here loved the area and would like to come back.
- The U.S. Military All-Star Game will be on July 14th. The Legion is taking the lead. There will be a parade as they come to town and Veterans will be honored before the game. Proceeds will go to local military families.

Riverland:

- Dr. Nuga thanked everyone who attended the accreditation visit for their support. He has received the first draft of the report of the visit and they met all of the criteria without concerns. There were two minor details that needed to be addressed.
- The Nursing Program had turned a corner and will start readmitting students in January.
- Mary Davenport is leaving for two years as an interim replacement at RCTC. Riverland will be looking for an interim replacement for Mary.
- The Equity and Inclusion Plan that Riverland has implemented is now being used statewide.
- The Summer Session has started. Enrollment is down 2% from last year.
- Riverland has received an SMIF Grant for emerging farmers and Riverland will hold a boot camp for new farmers that will be held in the spring and fall.
- Riverland is working on their 2018 Bonding request and are still hopeful for 2016.

Chamber Business:

Committee Updates –

- There were no questions about the updates sent to the Board.

Old Business:

Leadership Graduation:

- Randy reported that Leadership Graduation was a very interesting day and that he received many positive comments from the graduates. He reminded everyone that we are still taking applications for this fall's class.
- Jeff W. handed out flyers for the Global Leadership Summit and encouraged members to attend. He and Amy have attended and give the summit high marks.

CGI Video Sales:

- Randy informed the Board that CGI video sales will kick off in July. Dan Borland is on board and Randy is talking to Matt Levorsen as well for videography. The Mayor and Catherine will record welcome messages. Video shooting will be July 20-21st.

U.S. Military All Star Game:

- Randy reported that there is a meeting that he will attend on Friday morning. The Legion has taken over the majority of the planning.

New Business:

Parade Status:

- Randy reported that everything is going smoothly with the parade planning and sign-ups.

MN Supreme Court:

- Randy reported that the MN Supreme Court will be in town October 4th and 5th. They do outreach twice a year – once in the Cities and once in Greater MN. There will be live oral arguments in the high school auditorium and a public dinner at Wedgewood Cove the night before where they will sit among the attendees. This is very special and we should put our best foot forward. After the oral arguments have been heard, they will answer student questions, have lunch with the students and visit the classrooms.

Annual Meeting Speaker:

- Catherine suggested that we ask one of the Supreme Court Justices.
- Jeff W. would like someone with a message who has humor.
- Kim suggested someone with XYZ University. They cover workforce topics. She will reach out to Sara Sladek.
- Amy suggested someone from the series of diversity workshops that were just put on by the HR Group.
- Randy will check with Ellie Krug, who presents on diversity and more specifically transgender issues in the workplace.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 on a motion by Angie Kolker seconded by Kim Nelson. The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 27th at 7:30 a.m. in the Chamber Board Room.