

Sidney Chamber of Commerce

Minutes

March 17, 2008

The Sidney Chamber Commerce met on March 17, at the Ambassador, Sidney Members present were: Gene Eaton, Twila Larson, Tracy Lovett, Rev. Dr. Roger Kissel, Brian Whipple, Carol Rasmussen, Lynda Cruickshank, Randy Moreland, Judy Braunschweig, Vicky Smith, Teresa Hardy, Sandra Hall, Craig & Anne Eberly, Mike Ross, Randy & Jackie Monroe,

President Randy Moreland called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m. Special thanks to Teresa Hardy and staff at the Ambassador for hosting the lunch. **Please come again to the AMBASSADOR for the OPEN HOUSE MARCH 25!**

Secretary Report: Motion by Roger Kissel and 2nd by Craig Eberly to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report: None presented, as Dave Collins was ill today.

Correspondence: Randy Moreland read a letter requesting information on the Gathering Place. Lynda Cruickshank will pass this along to Lynn Benson to respond to.

Great Beginnings Preschool Carolyn Maher, Elementary Principal had written a request for the Chamber and members to write letters of collaboration and support for their Preschool program "Great Beginnings" as they reapply to the Empowerment Board for continued funding. Please list the types of cash or in-kind support we will be able to give to the pre-school. Motion by Gene Eaton, 2nd by Tracy Lovett for the chamber secretary to write a letter of support for Randy to sign and send to Mrs. Maher. Motion passed

Activities reports:

Easter egg Hunt: Judy Braunschweig reported that 109 children participated in freezing weather on March 15th. Over 100 hotdogs were sold. Tracey Lovett took about 24 family sets of photos. The National Honor Society did a wonderful job of filling the eggs and helping the morning of the Egg Hunt. A very good experience.

Silent Auction on Tracy Lovett photos: Ten on display in local businesses in February & March. Randy will get them to bidders. Ambassador will display the last group for people to bid on.

2009 Calendar and Photo Contest: Tracy handed out posters to put up about the contest. Deadline for photos August 20, 2008. Judging by September 6, and then printing and putting photos on web site. They will select 13 pictures total. Print and have on sale by November for 2009. Tracy will produce the calendar but we need 2-3 other volunteers to take the orders, enter birthdates and anniversaries on the calendar.

Use the Web site for Rules, Entry forms and calendar Ordering forms.

Signage Project: Committee had met to review signs designed by Gene Kirk. They don't have prices yet.

Option I. Steel Frame aluminum with aluminum cast letters. Avoid using vinyl which weathers quickly.

Option II. Brick with Cast Aluminum lettering.

Maybe we should approach the Rodeo about working on signage together.

New Business:

Western Iowa Tourism Association: Pat Hume had given Randy information about the organization and the opportunity to be listed in their brochures and on the tourism website. Membership costs \$125. Can then apply for tourism grants through them. Motion by Twila Larson and 2nd by Roger Kissel to use our "promotional budget line" to pay for the membership.

Tourism Grant to the city for planning: Several chamber members were able to attend a meeting at the city office regarding a planning grant from IDEED that was offered to Sidney and Glenwood. Project worth \$10000. The City of Sidney will cover \$500 and the chamber and other donors are asked to cover the remaining \$50.

Motion by Brian Whipple and 2nd by Randy Monroe to contribute \$50 from the Chamber of Commerce. Motion passed.

Web Page: Mike Ross to develop and maintain a chamber web site. Please get your information pages completed and turned in ASAP. Mike trying to get Sidney linked to many other important networks and sites.

FREDCO – Lynda Cruickshank, Kim Gee and Marty Mince to promote Fremont County at the "Taste of Southwest Iowa" in Des Moines this week. Promoting popcorn, orchards and wineries.

Chamber Calendar:

April 2nd – 8 a.m. Coffee Knox Body Shop

April 21st – TBA

May 7th – 8:00 a.m. Coffee at the Post Office

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Cruickshank, Secretary