

Sidney Chamber of Commerce

Minutes

April 21, 2008

The Sidney Chamber Commerce met on April 21, 2008 at the Sidney Foods. Members present were: Gene & Edna Eaton, Twila Larson, Tracy Lovett, Rev. Dr. Roger Kissel, Carol Rasmussen, Gregg & Lynda Cruickshank, Randy Moreland, Judy & Steve Braunschweig, Vicky Smith, Teresa Hardy, Craig & Anne Eberly, Mike Ross, Nancy Crecelius, Dave Collins, Pat & Bill Penn, Jaye Johnson, and Tammy Johnson

President Randy Moreland called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

Summer Reading Program: Nancy Crecelius made a presentation about the summer reading program at the elementary. There is a need for funds to purchase books and incentive items for the students. The chamber and individual members are encouraged to make contributions to the program. Checks can be made payable to the Sidney Elementary.

I. Secretary Report: Motion by Tracy Lovett and 2nd by Judy Braunschweig to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed.

II. Treasurer Report: None presented.

III. Correspondence: None

IV. Old Business:

Silent Auction on Tracy Lovett photos: Some of the pictures have been paid for and delivered. Still have some on display at the Gathering Place and at the Ambassador.

2009 Calendar and Photo Contest: Randy asked if anyone else needed a poster about the contest. Pre-sale in May for birthdates and advertising sponsors. 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: Gene Eaton presented designs and copy of the bids. Gene Kirk and Larry Greedy submitted bids. Total cost would be about \$5500 to \$6,000. Sharon Yahnke got bids for a brick structure. That would run about \$2100. Discussion of how to raise the funds for the project. Motion by Twila Larson and 2nd by Edna Eaton to apply for a grant from the Fremont County Foundation for matching funds. Lynda Cruickshank to help write application. Motion passed.

Tourism Grant to the city for planning: June 18 & 19th will be the dates for the Downtown Assessment visit. Please make sure to save those dates. The process will take quite a bit of time for building owners and businesses to meet and answer interview questions. **Suzie Moores at the City office has received \$350 of the \$500 needed from local sponsorships.**

V. New Business:

Sidney School Report: Gregg Cruickshank, Superintendent & Secondary Principal reminded chamber that the school was having an open meeting with Fremont Mills on Wednesday to discuss sharing opportunities.

Also of great interest is getting support for the statewide one cent sales tax (SILO) for property tax relief. This would put an extra \$58,000 into the school's budget for technology, infrastructure, and transportation. Please call or email State Senator Hubert Houser today. **(By the way – this bill did pass!)**

City Benches: Pat Penn wanted to compliment the city for coordinating the city bench project and for all of the businesses that sponsored benches.

Rodeo Parade: Need a coordinator to send letters to past participants and to take calls for reservations. Who can do this? Also need people to help with line-up the day of the parade. Randy will check to see if the Rodeo Board will have tickets for us to give to parade entries.

Clean Up Days: May 16th and 17th. Randy passed around a sign-up sheet. Volunteers are needed to supervise the dumpster and record how many people bring items in.

Yard Sale Day: This has been set for June to coincide with the Team Roping event put on by the Waubonsie Saddle Club. There are lots of competitors and their families in town that weekend.

Farmers Market /Open Air Building: Randy has been checking into the possibility of putting up a small metal building on the City's vacant lot next to the Cowboy Cabana. He would like to see it used for a Farmer's Market during the summer.

VI Reports and Activities

Web Page: Mike Ross from Blurr Designs presented a 30-day report on the Web Site visitation rate. Excellent! 259 visits in 30-day span. They read an average of 6.5 pages per visit. Has arranged for numerous other web sites to link back to our page.

Methodist Church: Jaye Johnson reported that on Tuesday at 7 p.m. they would be having Mentoring training. A representative from May Mentoring in Shenandoah was going to be present to share how their organization works.

FREDCO – Lynda Cruickshank reported on the FREDCO program on “Investing in Your Community” – What would a Community/Economic Development Professional do for our county. Program held at Waubonsie last week. County Supervisors and many of the candidates attended.

Ambassador Sidney: Hosting a National Senior Health and Fitness Fair at the Ambassador Wellness Center in Nebraska City on May 28. They have sent letters to local businesses to be exhibitors. May have a shuttle to take people over and back.

Double S Bulls- Animal Services, 2561 Knox Road, Sidney, IA 51652. Vicky Smith reported that they will start their season with the High School Rodeo this weekend and then a Team Roping event right after that as a fund raiser for the High School Rodeo board.

Chamber Calendar: <http://www.sidneyia.net> (click on the calendar to see what is happening!)

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

May 8th - 8 a.m. Ribbon Cutting / Grand opening of the Alzheimer’s Unit at the
Ambassador Sidney

May 16 & 17th - Clean Up Days (please sign up for a shift)

May 19 - 12 noon Regular Monthly Meeting – Whips

May 28 – Ambassador will have shuttle rides for seniors who wish to attend the National Senior Health and Fitness day in Nebraska City.

June 4 - 8:00 a.m. Chamber Coffee at the Cowboy Cabana

June 16 - 6 p.m. Monthly Meeting at Victory Life Church

June 18 & 19 - Iowa Department of Economic Development here for the Downtown Assessment
Project

July 29th - 4 p.m. - Rodeo Parade

Meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Cruickshank, Secretary