

Sidney Chamber of Commerce

Minutes

June 16th, 2008

Please Check the Chamber Web site: <http://www.sidneyia.net> for the calendar and copies of the minutes

The Sidney Chamber Commerce met on June 16th, 2008 at Victory Life Church at 6 p.m... Craig Eberly cooked some heavenly hamburgers and hotdogs on the grill for the members and there was an array of salads and desserts provided by members.

Members present were: Randy Moreland, Gene & Edna Eaton, Randy & Jackie Monroe, Rev. Dr. Roger & Barb Kissel, Chris Johnson, Lynda Cruickshank, Richard Moreland, Mike Ross, Steve and Judy Braunschweig Brian Whipple, Dave Collins, Craig and Ann Eberly, and Carol Rasmussen.

Guests present were Head Volleyball coach Rayna Cain of Dana College and her two players Kali Brayfield and Lexi Meyers of Omaha who were in town presenting a Volleyball camp at Sidney High School.

President Randy Moreland called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Randy thanked Craig and Ann for providing the venue and organizing the wonderful meal. He also welcomed our guests from Dana College of Blair, NE. Coach Rayna Cain talked about her background at Wayne State College and her coaching experiences. She shared about Dana College and encouraged the members to come out and watch the Sidney volleyball team this fall.

Chris Johnson, member and Vice Chairman of the Fremont County Endowment Fund gave a presentation on the Foundation. The Board accepts applications and make awards twice a year. They need people to apply for more projects because they had more funds than requests this last round. In 2009 they should have about \$100,000 to award to projects. Application forms are on-line. Sept 1 and Feb 1 are the deadlines. Matching funds are not required.

I. Secretary Report and Treasurer's Report Motion by Jackie Monroe and 2nd by Chris Johnson to approve the minutes and treasurer's report as presented. Motion passed.

II. Correspondence: Post Card - Okoboji visitor center would like brochures on the Rodeo. Carol Rasmussen will send brochures to them. Mount Pleasant sent us a stack of brochures for the Old Thresher's reunion. Another message from the Web Page: a family planning to travel through here wanted to know more about Quilt shops and farm implement dealers in the area.

III. Old Business:

2009 Calendar and Photo Contest: Randy reported that we should really move ahead with the calendar since it netted \$1200 for the Chamber last year. Judy volunteered to type up names and dates. Still looking for volunteers to coordinate the sale and birthday/anniversary information.

Signage Project: Lona Lewis has written and submitted a tourism grant for assistance with the funding for the new signs. There was discussion that the committee should apply for a Fremont County Foundation grant as well.

Rodeo Parade: A meeting needs to be set for Jennifer Gordon, First Community Bank and Rose Johnson to organize for this year. Letters need to be sent to past participants and someone needs to take calls for reservations. Also need people to help with line-up the day of the parade. The Rodeo board will not provide free tickets to the parade participants.

Yard Sale Day: June 14th: There were about 20 registered and placed on the map and probably 5 others set up for the day. Traffic was decent.

Farmers Market /Open Air Building: Randy has been discussing the possibility of putting up a small metal building on the City's vacant lot next to the Cowboy Cabana. The City and the Chamber would each pay about \$350 – \$375 to split the cost of the building. Mike Ross moved and Edna Eaton seconded the motion to pay for ½ of the building expense. Motion passed.

Tourism Grant to the city for planning: Mark Travis and Anna Priebe from the city office have sent out information and a schedule regarding the interviews to be held on June 18 & 19th.

Thursday evening will be a special program/report on what the interviewers feel are opportunities and suggestions for improvements to the community. Please encourage residents to attend! The Sidney High School is reserved for the public meeting.

IV New Business:

Web Site: The Sidney City Council has been discussing working together with the Chamber of Commerce to fund and update the Website. Motion by Cruickshank and 2nd by Brian Whipple to ask the city to pay \$200 towards the site development and \$60 annually or half of the hosting cost. Motion passed.

Golf Tournament: Brian Whipple has been checking on possible dates. Several tournaments already planned. Maybe we will set a date for September or October.

Recruiting new members: Randy Moreland and Dave Collins stopped at the Hillside Orchard to visit with Lisa & Jeff Phillips about joining the Chamber and working together on the Farmer's Market idea. Marty Mincer was also suggested. Please invite other areas residents/businesses to join.

Pancake Breakfast: Always the last day of the county fair, sponsored by Farm Bureau and the Chamber of Commerce. This year it will be on Monday, July, 21st at 7 a.m. Chamber pays for ½ of the cost of supplies and we help cook and serve the breakfast. Members usually meet about 6 a.m. to set up and start the coffee and grills. Randy is too look into advertising the breakfast to get a bigger crowd this year.

Baseball Bat Factory: Information on two potential owners/builders from Shenandoah had been received and forwarded to Doug Hobbie. Factory would make major league bats with projected revenue of \$21 Million. Discussion was for FREDCO to get involved and see if they could follow up on the bidding process with the developers.

VI Reports and Activities

Web Page: Mike Ross from Blurr Designs reported that since the launch date in March, there have been 1600 visits with an average of 21 visits per day. There have been 155 hits in the last 30 days. Looking forward to adding the City information to the page. Please remember to check the page regularly to see what is on the calendar etc.

Victory Life: Ice Cream Social – Sunday June 22, at 6 p.m. **Home-made ice cream!**

Randy Monroe: Running for County Supervisor as an Independent. June 24th is the Republican Convention at the courthouse. There are 56 delegates who will meet to determine who will be on the ballot for the Republican Party for Supervisor. Also – FEMA declared several Iowa counties disaster areas, but Fremont County has not been declared one yet. The county supervisors have not hired a permanent Emergency Management Coordinator. Residents with flood losses need to contact Craig Marshall who is volunteering as the coordinator at this time.

FREDCO – Lynda Cruickshank reported on FREDCO activities. John Whipple and Chuck Larson voted not allow the Economic Development Coordinator to be a county staff position. FREDCO proposed using their 43% of the Hotel Motel Tax dollars and membership fees to fund the position as well as the benefits package. A great deal of support has been shown to FREDCO for their efforts to move the county forward economically and to provide more local jobs. Several of the new candidates for county supervisor are in favor of a paid development coordinator. The next FREDCO meeting will be June 19th at 5:30 at the Sugar Clay Winery in Thurman and the public is invited to attend.

Motion to adjourn by Mike Ross and 2nd by Brian Whipple. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynda Cruickshank, Secretary

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

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

June 19 - 7:00 p.m. Public Meeting for Tourism Report, High School

July 2nd – 8 a.m. Chamber Coffee at the Heritage Terrace apartments at 906 Clay

July 21st -6 a.m. set up for Pancake Breakfast at the Fremont County Fair grounds

July 21st – 12 noon – Regular monthly meeting at Whips

July 29th - 4 p.m. Rodeo Parade

July 29th – August 4th Sidney Iowa Rodeo