

Minutes: 2006 Chamber Meetings (Archived Volume)

**Vicksburg Area Chamber of Commerce
January 9, 2006**

The meeting was called to order by President John Farrand at 6:07 pm.

Roll Call : Seven Board members present missing board members were Jo Ann Miller and Terry Houlser. Meeting held.

Outside Presentations : Joe Debeck from the Kalamazoo Gazette has come to let us know that they are there to promote and support the Chamber in any manner possible.

Minutes: December 12, 2005 was read and Lee Mortimer motions to accept the minutes seconded by Kent McCauley. Voted Unanimous.

Treasury: Balance year to date \$2,934.14 Lee Mortimer presented to the board a print out of the latest expenses and deposits of the Ice festival.

Marketing Report : The Web site has been updated with the Ice festival information including the Ice derby sign up form. Visitors guide is on track and the letters for them will go out this week.

Winter Festival : Is coming together nicely 7 entries for the chili cook off and 12 ice sculptures will be done for the event. Fundraising for the event was a success with the goal being obtained. Karen Fulton mentioned that we could also do intermittent ads through the announcing that will commence at the cook off for a small fee to help promote income and reduced ad fees for any one interested.

Unfinished Business

Window Clings : Karen Fulton presented to us that the clings were needing to be done in three colors instead of two for visibility purposes which causes a increase in cost. Form \$250 to \$400 for 250 of them. Dan Bialas motions to make the expense, seconded by Lee Mortimer. Voted unanimous.

Car Show : Friday night of the car festival.

Concerts in the park : Continue to set bands up by our selves.

Awards Dinner : President John Farrand appointed Dan Bialas as Chairperson of this committee member Lee Mortimer.

New Business

Chamber Brochures : The Disc with the brochure on it was given to Joanne Craddock to go and make necessary corrections and updates. Lee Mortimer motions to allow a \$200.00 expense to have brochures printed and available for the ice festival, seconded by Lisa Robertson. Voted unanimous.

Rotary Show Boat Ad : Rotary is asking for an add from the Chamber of Commerce for the upcoming Show boat. Joanne Craddock will be putting together the half page ad for the Chamber. Lisa Robertson makes a motion for the \$130.00 expense for the ad with the Rotary, seconded by Dan Bialas. Voted unanimous.

Chamber Chat : The next Chamber chat has been scheduled for Tuesday January 31, 2006 at 4 p.m. with Josh Shultz. Focusing on business start up and Operation costs for small businesses.

Lisa Robertson motions for meeting adjourn seconded by Kent McCauley at 7:13 p.m.

Vicksburg Area Chamber of Commerce
February 13, 2006

The meeting was called to order by President John Farrand at 6:04 p.m.

Roll Call : Six board members present missing board members were Jo Ann Miller, Dan Bialas and Jill Lindsley. Meeting held.

Outside Presentations : Joe Debiack for the Kalamazoo Gazette presented to the board a way to have an official newsletter in the Gazette at no cost to the chamber. It would be a full page once a month in color.

Minutes : January 13, 2006 minutes were read Kent McCauley motions to accept, seconded by Lee Mortimer. Voted unanimous.

Treasury Report: Lee Mortimer presented us with year to date balance of \$4,402.72 with two outstanding bills for the ice festival.

Marketing Report : Joanne Craddock is encouraging all of us to turn in a 100 words or less about us or our business to include on the web photo is optional.

She also brought to us a report on our web site letting us now in the past 30 days the site had 519 hits.

The visitors guide is coming nicely we have sold 2 full page ads we are expecting that more will come in closer to the dead line date.

Membership Report: 4 new members added this month Fairfield Broadcasting, Kepco, Inc., Vicksburg Library, Vicksburg Community Schools.

Events Report: Ice festival John Farrand feels that it went well. 16 sculptures were sponsored. We have had really positive feed back from the event.

Unfinished Business

Depot Sign: Dan Bialas was not in attendance.

Business District Sign: John Farrand is going to look into this item further as to the cost of the non ad version and also look into more funding from other organizations.

Car Festival: Kent McCauley is going to extend an invitation for Skip Knowles and Matt Crawford to attend our March 13, 2006 meeting to confirm our putting on a separate event along with the car festival on Saturday afternoon/evening.

Concerts in the Park: John Farrand has been in contact with Kathy Booth for a listing of the bands that participate with this event. Karen Fulton is going to look into what is needed to get the band shelter off the ground and operating in Clark Park.

Awards Dinner: Will be having their first official meeting for this event in 2 weeks.

Chamber Chat: Dan Bialas has a consultant that would like to come and speak on how to train your employees.

New Business

New Boardmember: Jo Ann Miller has given us a written resignation form her position. Lisa Robertson nominates Joanne Craddock to take the seat, seconded by Lee Mortimer. Voted unanimous.

Golf outing for S.C.C.S.: Kent McCauley motions for us to Co-Sponsor on the golf outing offering help as it is needed, seconded by Terry Housler. Voted unanimous.

Window Clings: Karen Fulton has presented us with our window clings they are great. Sh reports that they ended up going over the agreed amount by \$12.00.

Folk Music: Karen Fulton lets us know that they are coming to Vicksburg this year and they would like to be present at the next meeting March 13, 2006 for a 5 – 10 minute presentation.

Newsletter: Lee Mortimer motions to explore the possibilities of the newsletter with the Kalamazoo Gazette, seconded by Terry Housler. Voted unanimous.

Kent McCauley motions for adjournment at 8:20p.m., seconded by Joanne Craddock.

Vicksburg Area Chamber of Commerce
March 13, 2006

Meeting was called to order by President John Farrand at 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call: Lee Mortimer and Terry Housler not present, meeting held.

Outside Presentations:

Skip Knowles and Matt Crawford gave us the highlights on how the Vicksburg Community Association and the Downtown Development Authority came about and what the groups have done to improve different areas in Vicksburg.

K'zoo Folklife Organization is holding a concert at the Historical Village on July 29. They are estimating an attendance of 1,000 people. They are offering Chamber Members the first option on providing vendor food sales at this event. Must be properly licensed for food sales.

Danna Downing from Bronson Vicksburg Hospital came to fill us in on the Hearty Hustle that is set for May 13, letting us know that as merchants we could put together a coupon sheet to be passed out in the participant packets.

Minutes: Joanne Craddock motions to accept the minutes for February 13, 2006 seconded by Dan Bialas. Voted Unanimous.

Treasury Report: Per Treasurer's Report, current working balance \$3221.60.

Marketing Report: Joanne Craddock reported the Visitors Guide is on track. Waiting for an update from Total Market Strategies. Web site is still increasing on hits each month.

Membership Report: A current member list was passed out to all board members.

Events Report: Jill Lindsley reports that the Ice festival had a profit of \$685.

Kent McCauley states that the VCA is supportive of the Chambers involvement for the Old Car Festival. They would like to see something on Saturday at/after 2 p.m. to help keep people in town.

Concerts in the Park: Kathy Booth has begun scheduling bands.

Band Shell: Matt Crawford states that he will meet with Karen Fulton this week and the band shell could be done for the start of the Concerts in the Park.

Awards Dinner: Dan Bialas reported they are looking at the end of September for the dinner. The exact date depends on which facility we use. Date to be determined later.

Depot Sign: Dan Bialas is working out details on how to fit our sign in with the depot's sign.

Chamber Chat: to be determined. Dan Bialas will make contact with a potential speaker and let us know the date.

New Business

Business Expo: Kathy Booth is looking for endorsement of the business expo as well as a facility to hold it. Kent McCauley has offered the Mill as a possible option. Kent McCauley motions to endorse the business expo seconded by Dan Bialas, tentative date of June 13, 2006. Voted Unanimous.

Lisa Robertson motions to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kent McCauley. Adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Vicksburg Area Chamber of Commerce
April 10, 2006

The meeting was called to order by President John Farrand at 6:05 p.m.

Roll Call: Board Members present: John Farrand, Lisa Robertson, Lee Mortimer, Jill Lindsley, Harry Conant, Joanne Craddock, and Karen Fulton. Dan Bialas, Terry Housler and Kent McCauley not present, meeting held.

Outside Presentations:

Kathy Booth from Kreative Designs discussed the Business Expo planned for June 13, 2006 from 10 am to 6 pm at the Mill of South County. She is looking for exhibitors, volunteers and ideas. The Chamber will be endorsing the event along with other sponsors.

Karen Fulton informed us that the Historical Society will be holding family events the first Saturday of every month at the Depot Museum. If merchants in town would like to distribute flyers for them, they in return will distribute flyers or coupons for participating merchants at these events. Contact Karen if interested.

Performing Arts Center is offering to all chamber members a discount for the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival.

Minutes:

Joanne Craddock motions to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Lee Mortimer.

Treasury Report:

Per Treasurers report the working balance is \$3,209.65.

Marketing Report:

Deadline for the Visitor's Guide was April 3. The guide is in proofing at this time. The guide was increased from 20 to 24 pages due to the great response from all the advertisers.

Membership Report:

No new members this month.

Events:

Hearty Hustle- The Chamber members were invited to provide a coupon/promotion sheet to be handed out in the packets to Hearty Hustle participants. Joanne Craddock will put together a flyer for any Chamber members wanting to provide a coupon/promotion. Contact Joanne by April 20 deadline.

OctoberFest- Jill Lindsley proposed holding off the OctoberFest idea for one more year, so we can concentrate on further developing the Ice festival. Karen Fulton motions to wait one more year for the OctoberFest, seconded by Lee Mortimer.

Ice Festival- it was discussed and agreed to slate the first Saturday of February for the Ice Festival each year. This way it can be listed in our calendar of events.

Economic Growth:

John Farrand reported for Terry Housler. Terry would like to be contacted by anyone who sees commercial property for sale or lease in the Vicksburg area. Terry will be working with J. R. Fulton to produce a pamphlet with the listings to promote these areas.

Unfinished Business:

Car Festival Chamber Event - tabled

Band Shell- Karen Fulton is working with Dan Pryson on the Band Shell in Clark Park. Karen is working on outside funding for the construction of the band shell.

Chamber Chat- time and date to be determined. Dan Bialas is working on this.

Golf Outing Info- tabled

Depot Sign- Dan Bialas has contacted the sign designer. When the designer begins work on the Museum's sign, Dan will work with him for a Chamber sign.

Concerts in the Park- John Farrand proposed the idea of a German band of 24 performers to play at the concerts in the park in July or August. The German band is a spin off of the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra and requires payment, but this would step up the level of entertainment we offer. John will be emailing more info to the Board Members. We will need a Board vote via e-mail prior to the next meeting to book this group.

New Business:

Joanne Craddock proposed the idea of purchasing plexi-glass brochure/magazine holders for use in displaying our brochure and Visitor's Guide. Karen Fulton suggested we have them screen-printed with Vicksburg Area Chamber of Commerce, so they do not get used for other purposes. We will be receiving some funds back from the Visitor's Guide and would like to earmark funds for this purpose. Karen Fulton will check on pricing for holders with our name on them.

Ribbon Cutting- John Farrand suggested the creation of a Ribbon Cutting Committee of the President and/or Vice President to formally welcome new businesses in the Vicksburg Area. We could also use the Ribbon Cutting for Grand Re-Openings and One-year Anniversary.

The first Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday April 12, 2006 at 4 p.m. for Weezy's Village Variety Store. Board participation is encouraged.

Joanne Craddock motions for adjournment, seconded by Lee Mortimer at 7:11 p.m.

Vicksburg Area Chamber of Commerce
May 8, 2006

The meeting was called to order by President John Farrand at 6:04 p.m.

Roll Call:

Board members present: John Farrand, Lisa Robertson, Lee Mortimer, Harry Conant, Dan Bialas, Joanne Craddock. Not present Terry Housler, Kent McCauley, and Karen Fulton, meeting held.

Outside Presentations:

Skip and Carol Knowles gave us an update on the Old Car Festival. They reiterated to all downtown business owners that they encourage sidewalk sales on Friday night (not a good idea for Sat) and later hours Friday and Saturday. They were also informing us about the packet that is given to each car participant. They would love for businesses to provide coupons or giveaway items for these packets. Joanne Craddock will coordinate this for the Chamber. More trophy sponsors are needed this year for the 4 added Corvette classes, sponsorship ranges from \$50-\$100. The Museum will also be providing a livery service up and down Richardson for the Historic Village.

Minutes:

Joanne Craddock motions to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Dan Bialas. Voted unanimous.

Treasury:

Per Treasurer's report the working balance is \$3,247.15.

Marketing Report:

The Visitor's Guide & Community Directory is now completed and ready to be handed out. We went from 20 pages to 28 pages and from 2,500 copies to 3,000 copies. Website in the last 7 days has had 117 hits.

Membership Report:

One new member to report- Oswalt Livestock Enterprises, Inc.

Events:

Nothing to report at this time.

Economic Growth:

JR Fulton provided a folder with approx. 2 dozen properties for sale to be placed in a brochure. We will also be spotlighting 2 of the properties in our monthly newsletter.

Car Festival:

The gathering in the market place has been canceled for this year.

Awards Dinner:

Date and place still to be determined. Award categories are Business of the Year, Most Improved Business, New Business, and Citizens Choice. Nominations will be solicited and the committee will vote.

Chamber Chat:

To be determined.

Golf Outing:

South County Community Services Golf Outing Saturday, July 23, States Golf Course at 2 p.m. looking for hole sponsors and golfers. Hole sponsor is \$25.00. Golfing \$50 per person or \$200 for a team of 4.

Concerts in the Park:

Line up is completed and looking very good for this year. Planned BBQ dinners are June 16, July 7, July 14, August 11, and August 18. Ice Cream floats on July 28. German Festival September 22 Brats/ Fall events.

Band Shell:

Karen Fulton is working on the funding and drawing plans. We need the plan to determine cost. We can order a premanufactured structure, but we're working on other options.

Old Business:

Visitor's Guide displays- Dan Bialas motions to purchase 25 plain displays at \$5.99 each, seconded by Lisa Robertson. Voted Unanimous.

Lee Mortimer motions to purchase 10 plain brochure displays at \$2.99 each, seconded by Lisa Robertson. Voted Unanimous.

Lisa Robertson motions to purchase a 30" x 20" poster with the Chamber logo on it for events and to leave at the Chamber office for \$85.00 or less, seconded by Dan Bialas. Voted unanimous.

Hearty hustle flyer- Dan Bialas motions to reimburse Joanne Craddock \$25.44 for the cost of 300 copies of the vendor flyer, seconded by Lee Mortimer. Voted unanimous.

New Business:

Bike/Walk Path- Joanne brought up an e-mail from Holly Bishop regarding interest for a trailway from Schoolcraft to Vicksburg along "VW" Ave. Holly will be pursuing this idea.

Announcements:

South County Community Services is holding a Mystery Dinner Saturday, May 20, 7 p.m. at the Main Street Pub.

Reminder of the three workshops being held at the Business Expo June 13.

Next board meeting scheduled for June 12, Main Street Pub at 6 p.m.

Vicksburg Area Chamber of Commerce
Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2006

Meeting called to order at 6:05 by President, John Farrand.

Roll Call:

Present- John Farrand, Lee Mortimer, Jill Lindsley, Harry Conant, Dan Bialas, Joanne Craddock, Karen Fulton. Not present- Lisa Robertson, Kent McCauley, Terry Housler.

Presentation:

Ron Smith, a Vicksburg resident, spoke to the Chamber about Sunset Beach. He wanted to bring awareness that the beach is in need of some update and repair. The beach used to be a big drawing point for the town. Ron is going to speak to the Village Council about some improvements.

Minutes:

Motion by Joanne Craddock to approve minutes as written; second by Dan Bialas. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Lee Mortimer gave report with current balance of \$4,676.54.

Marketing Report:

Visitor's Guides/Community Directory is still being distributed to a variety of locations. John Farrand volunteered to get some delivered to outlying areas.

Membership Report:

Gave quick overview of newest members: Oswalt Livestock Enterprises; Colleen Kelley, Independent Longaberger Representative; Dornbos Family Dentistry. Carol Higgins was present from Arrowhead Cove Bed & Breakfast and gave an overview of their new business.

Events:

Jill Lindsley & John Farrand reported they have been in contact with a German Club for ideas for our September 22nd mini German Festival. A German Band (a division of the Kalamazoo Symphony Band) will be playing. John requested \$350.00 to book the band for their professional services. Motion by Jill Lindsley to approve \$350.00 for the band; second by Joanne Craddock. Motion passed.

Concerts in the Park start this Friday, June 16. Volunteers are still needed to work the BBQ dinners. Please contact John or Jill if you can help.

We are having a shortage of volunteers for our events and any help would be appreciated. We will need volunteers to work the BBQ Chicken at the FolkLife Festival on July 29. Laura Howard suggested e-mailing all Chamber Members with this information.

Economic Growth:

John reported that he still had the list of available properties and will work on getting a formal listing out.

Unfinished Business:

Band Shell- Karen Fulton requested the Chamber's input on purchasing a "kit" versus trying to have a plan drawn. Having the plan drawn requires the expertise of an engineer. Motion by Joanne Craddock to pursue purchasing the kit; second by Lee Mortimer. Motion passed. Karen will continue working on this project.

Awards Dinner- Dan Bialas said they are still looking at mid September on a Wed or Thurs night. Should have exact details at next meeting.

Chamber Chat- We are still looking for a speaker to do a "Chat". If you would like to give a presentation or have someone in mind, please let John know.

New Business:

Concerts in the Park- Discussed options for reimbursing Amy Miller for use of electric for past seasons and possibly this season. Motion by Jill Lindsley to provide one year free Chamber membership for Classic Mortgage. Second by Dan Bialas. Motion passed.

Performing Arts Center- Tim Fuller has asked the Chamber to advertise in their booklet/program of performances. Motion by Lee Mortimer to approve a quarter page ad at \$100.00; second by Dan Bialas. Motion passed.

Next meeting July 10, 2006.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Vicksburg Are Chamber of Commerce
Meeting Minuets
July 10, 2006

Meeting called to order at 6:04 by President, John Farrand

Roll Call:

Present – John Farrand, Lee Mortimer, Kent McCauley, Harry Conant, Janne Craddock, Lisa Robertson, Karen Fulton. Not Present – Terry housler, Jill Lindsley, Dan Bialas.

Minutes:

Motion by Joanne Craddock to approve minutes as written; Second by Lee Mortimer. Motion approved.

Treasures Report:

Lee Mortimer gave report with a current balance of \$5,067.21.

Marketing Report:

Nothing to report at this time web site is still getting good hits.

Membership Report:

One new Member Dan Gregart Agency Michigan Farm Bureau Insurance.

Events:

Folk Life Festival for July 29th needing volunteers for running the concessions serving BBQ and Non BBQ Chicken dinner, Rib Sandwich and hot dogs.

Economic Growth:

Nothing to report at this time.

Unfinished Business:

Band Shell:

Moving along good prints are being drawn now. Karen Fulton is still working on this matter.

Awards Dinner:

Set For Wednesday September 20 at the Main Street Pub Vicksburg.

Chamber Chat:

Wednesday August 23 at the Strong School house a Meet and Greet so that the members can get to know other members.

New Business:

Lisa Robertson motions for all charter members to receive a 10 % discount off their membership for the duration of their continuous membership Standing; seconded by Kent McCauley. Voted 2 yes 0 no. Motion passed.

Terry Housler has respectfully stepped down from his position of Board member.

Nominating Committee for our September election is Laura Howard – Chairperson, Joanne Craddock, Lee Mortimer, Kent McCauley, John Farrand.

Joanne Craddock brings to the board that the Opening of the new football field will be held Sunday August 20 and would be a good idea to have the Chamber involved.

We need to start focusing on things for the 2007 year ideas given were to so some strategic focusing of the group image. Have a Closed meeting of just the board members to help work together for a new plan for the new elected board.

Announcements:

June 23 SCCS Annual Golf Outing needing sponsors for holes cost \$25.
Call Mary Howard.

BreastCancer Awareness Fundraiser scheduled for August 6.

Next meeting is August 14,2006 at the Main Street Pub.

Lee Mortimer motions for adjourn; second by Joanne Craddock at 6:55.

Vicksburg Area Chamber of Commerce
August 14, 2006

Meeting called to order at 6:06 pm by President John Farrand.

Roll Call: Present John Farrand, Joanne Craddock, Lee Mortimer, Kent McCauley, Harry Conant, Lisa Robertson. Not present Karen Fulton, Jill Lindsley, Dan Bialas.

Outside Presentations: Sgnt. Mike Host from the Air Force presented to the chamber the community service that they provide for all communities. 100% tuition paid to all that are in active duty in the Community College of the Air Force which offers associates degrees in electrical, mechanical, medical, financial and administrative areas. As well as providing them with experience and leadership abilities. The credits from this college are transferable to any college.

Minutes: Lee motions to approve the minutes as written; Second by Joanne Craddock motion approved.

Treasurer Report: Lee Mortimer presented the report with numerous due renewal one new member, one concert in the park event and folk festival event with an ending balance of \$7,343.38.

Marketing Report: Web site is still doing well getting email and checking them daily.

Membership: No new members this month 19 members have submitted their dues for the 2006-2007 year.

Events: The German band event has been moved from Friday September 22 to Sunday September 24 due to having a home football game at the high school that night. The location of the 24 pc band may be at the Historical Village. Brat will be sold for this event volunteers needed.

Unfinished Business:

Awards Reception the totals for the event on the high end meaning if everyone who got a invitation show up will be \$1270.00 if there is only a portion of people who attend on the low end it will be around \$827.00.

Joanne Craddock makes a motion to grant the use of up to \$1270.00 for this event; Seconded by Lee Mortimer. Voted Unanimous.

Meet and Greet working on contacting Lawrence Wenke and Tom George not to come and do a presentation but to be her to mingle with all the members.

Nominations Committee Have met letters have gone out just waiting for any written petitions to come in.

New Business: Blood Drive Roxilee Goecker would like local Businesses to donate gift certificates to give as incentives for locals to come in and give blood.
Also looking for a sponsor for month of March to provide snack and 4 volunteers.

President John Farrand Nominates Gary Grey to replace Terry Housler for a one year term.

President John Farrand Creates a By Laws Committee with the Chair person of this committee being Laura Howard.

Vice President Kent McCauley would like to encourage local business to step up and offer employee donations to the United Way Campaign that is coming up starting September 13,2006.

The football fields grand opening is August 20,2006 for 5 -7 pm with hot dogs and lots of event for all.

Announcements: The next meeting will be at the Main street pub Monday October 9 at 6 pm .

**Vicksburg Area Chamber of Commerce
September 11, 2006**

Meeting called to order by President John Farrand at 6:05 p.m.

Roll Call: Present John Farrand, Joanne Craddock, Dan Bialas, Jill Lindsley, Kent McCauley, Gary Gray and Lisa Robertson. Not Present Lee Mortimer, Harry Conant and Karen Fulton.

Minutes: Joanne Craddock motions to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Kent McCauley. Motion approved.

Treasurer Report: John Farrand gave year to date balance of \$8,137.39.

Marketing Report: Joanne reports that the most often viewed page on our Chamber web site is the Events page.

Membership Report: Reminders being printed and going out this week for those members whom have not submitted their dues for September. We had 6 more renewals this month with a total of 26 so far.

Events: The German Fest has been changed to the Historic Village on Sunday September 24 from 3p.m. to 5p.m. At this time we are working on getting a magician to come and perform before the band to make it more of a family function.

Economic Growth: Looking for a new Chairperson for this committee. Work being done on adding available commercial properties to the website.

Unfinished Business:

Band Shell: Karen Fulton still working on shell placement finalization.

Awards Reception: Dan Bialas reports everything is set for the reception. Recognition Award winners have been chosen and will be notified this week.

Nomination Committee: Laura Howard did not receive any petitions for additional Board nominees, so the slate stands with John Farrand, Joanne Craddock and Suzanne Little to become board members.

New Business:

Dues Schedule John Farrand brought to the Board a possible change in membership dues. He suggested a discounted price for additional businesses joining owned by the same person/people. Tabled until October. Each Board Member is asked to think about ways to offer this incentive.

Board Members Kent McCauley makes a motion to accept the nomination of John Farrand, Joanne Craddock and Suzanne Little to the Chamber Board of Directors; Seconded by Lisa Robertson.

Announcements:

Marshall is having Event Planning workshop on Tuesday, September 12 at 7 p.m.

Goofy Golf Outing benefit for the Rotary Strive Program set for Saturday, September 16 from 10 to Noon.

Rotary meeting set for Wednesday, September 13 for the United Way Kickoff at 7:15 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

Joanne Craddock make a motion to adjourn meeting; Seconded by Kent McCauley at 6:55 p.m.

Vicksburg Area Chamber of Commerce
October 9, 2006

Meeting called to order by Kent McCauley at 6:11 p.m.

Roll Call: Present Kent McCauley, Joanne Craddock, Suzanne Little, Harry Conant, Gary Gray and Lisa Robertson. Not Present Lee Mortimer, John Farrand, Dan Bialas.

Minutes: Joanne Craddock motions to accept the minutes as written; Seconded by Gary Gray. Motion approved.

Treasury: No Report at this time.

Marketing: Joanne Craddock lets us know that we are receiving several emails that she has replied to including one from a citizen inquiring about community Garage Sales and if Vicksburg ever thought of doing some. Family Doctors asked to be featured in the next news letter.

Membership: Greg Hunt was the only new member this month.

Events: Nothing to report at this time.

Economic Growth: Kent McCauley has offered to chair this committee.

Unfinished Business:

Band Shell: Karen Fulton has got the cost of the project and is working on the funding at this time the location of the shell is yet to be determined.

Depot Sign: Nothing to report at this time.

Dues Schedule: Tabled

New Business

Brochures the cost of 1500 of them to be printed from Printing Services is quoted at \$171.78 Joanne Craddock motions for them to be printed; seconded by Suzanne Little. Voted Unanimous.

Chamber Event hanging Sign Gary Gray has offered to put together a A frame holder for two dry erase boards for out door advertisement of Chamber events. Lisa Robertson will get the boards and markers for this item.

Voting in new Board members

Vice President: Gary Gray accepts the nomination with the review of the Bylaws being changed that the Vice President not automatically bump into Presidency on the following year. Voted Unanimous.

Treasury: Joanne Craddock nominates Lee Mortimer for Treasury position. Voted Unanimous.

Secretary: Suzanne Little nominates Lisa Robertson for the Secretary. Voted Unanimous.

Strategic Planning meeting for the up coming year is scheduled for Monday October 23 at 6 p.m. at the Depot.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 by President Kent McCauley.

Vicksburg Area Chamber of Commerce
November 13, 2006

Meeting called to order by Kent McCauley at 6:07 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Kent McCauley, Joanne Craddock, Harry Conant, Gary Gray, Lee Mortimer, John Farrand, and Dan Bialas. Not Present: Suzanne Little and Lisa Robertson.

Minutes: Motion by Joanne Craddock seconded by John Farrand to accept the minutes as written. Motion carried.

Treasury: Lee Mortimer presented Treasurer's report through October 31, 2006 with a current balance of \$7,209.44.

Marketing: Joanne Craddock reported the available commercial properties in the area have been listed on the website. She has also put a note on the site regarding hosting or sponsoring future Chamber meetings.

Membership: No report at this time. John Farrand volunteered to Chair this committee and will work with Lisa.

Events: Ice Festival to be Saturday, February 3, 2007. John reported that we have booked the same company as last year for the ice sculpting (Icescapes) and a new horse carriage company. We have also added trophy sponsorships to our options of sponsoring. The chili cook-off was discussed and we will be inviting a few other restaurants from the Kalamazoo area to participate. Those restaurants have great followings and can provide great exposure thus bringing more people to our event. Interested sponsors can contact Jill Lindsley at Rosewood Flowers.

Economic Growth: No report at this time. Kent is looking for volunteers to work with him on this committee and will make it a priority over the next month.

Unfinished Business:

Band Shell: Karen Fulton still working on- location has not been confirmed.

Depot Sign: Nothing to report at this time. If we decide to move our office, this sign will not be needed. Tabled until next meeting.

Dues Schedule: Tabled until next month. Lee Mortimer will check with other Chambers on their second business (same ownership) discounts.

Event Hanging Sign: Gary Gray felt we should make the sign larger than originally planned. He will complete this project before the Ice Festival.

New Business

Strategic Planning Meeting: Kent discussed the goals for the Chamber as sent to all membership.

Office Relocation: There will be more discussion and a vote at the next meeting.

Village Council Meetings: As part of our strategic mission, board members are asked to attend a few village council meetings also. We will get a list together so we can cover as many meetings as possible.

Chamber Welcome: Motion by Joanne Craddock seconded by John Farrand to deliver a welcome gift to Village Photography, a new business downtown. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm. Next meeting December 11, 2006.

JLC