

Vicksburg Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes

April 12, 2007

Meeting called to order at 6:02 by President Kent McCauley.

Roll Call: Kent McCauley, Gary Gray, Dan Bialas, Joanne Craddock, Joel Nelson, John Farrand, Lee Mortimer. Harry Conant not present.

Minutes: Motion by Gary Gray, seconded by John Farrand to approve meeting minutes dated March 12, 2007. Motion carried.

Presentations:

Dianne Zeman, a volunteer Junior Achievement teacher, and a group of 5th grade Sunset Lake Junior Achievement students gave us a presentation on Generous Hands. The Junior Achievement class has designated April 18th as Generous Hands Day in Vicksburg. They are asking for our support in collecting 100% fruit juice boxes to put in the Friday Packs. Junior Achievement reps will pick up any donations on the 18th from area businesses. Joanne Craddock will e-mail the membership to let them know about this event.

June Kucks, Margaret Owen and Paul Franklin from the FolkLife Festival gave us a presentation of this year's festival and the changes they are making. They will have lots of children's activities and will promote activities for special needs children as well. The event is July 28th and they will have a nominal entrance fee. They would like to have the food booths provided by local businesses and organizations again. Any questions about the event can be directed to Margaret Owen at 269-327-2815.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Lee prepared the regular Treasurer's Report and a Special Report. The income to date on the Special Treasurer's Report is \$3,540.90 and the operating balance from the Treasurer's Report is \$5,758.77. Lee again suggested we use the funds on the Special Report for specific purposes such as scholarships.

Marketing Report: Joanne Craddock discussed the number of hits the website receives. In the last 30 days, we had 688 views. She has also contacted Total Market Strategies and will have them present at May's meeting regarding the Visitor's Guide/Community Directory. She also mentioned that Jim Smitchger of jaEss Consulting is offering a Member-to-Member benefit of a free consult regarding Internet marketing and websites. This will be posted on the website M2M page.

Membership Report: John Farrand of the Membership Committee presented Carl Austin of STK Built Homes and Tammy Tibbetts of Heavenly Touch Therapeutic Massage as new members. Joanne Craddock made a motion, seconded by Kent McCauley to approve our new members. Motion carried. Also, thanks to McCallum Business Services for renewing their membership. John also mentioned that MarJo's has new owners, and the ID theft seminar on March 20th went very well.

Events Report: no report

Economic Growth- Kent McCauley asked Bob Donelson to speak to the Chamber about his plans for the old bowling alley. Bob and his family will be opening Bobby's Drive-In. Bob gave an overview of all his plans and hopes to open around August. They could potentially employ 50-60 staff. We wish Bob luck and support him in getting his business going.

Dan Bialas discussed Spartan buying Felpausch. They look at this as a very positive change for the employees and customers. The actual change over will take place near the end of June and they may receive a new name.

Old Business:

Joanne Craddock on behalf of the Nominating Committee presented Charles Zanayed to fill the remaining vacant board position. Joanne motioned, seconded by Dan Bialas to approve Charles filling the position. Motion passed. Thanks and welcome Charles.

Bylaw Revisions- Joanne asked the Board if anyone had any comments, questions or changes from the bylaws she had e-mailed the board members. Still working on the wording of a few sections. It was also mentioned that we should have an attorney review our changes. Kent will see if the Village attorney can help with this. The members then have to approve the final version.

Carol Higgins from the Commercial-Express said she is still working on selling ads for our Official Newsletter.

New Business:

The Hearty Hustle group has asked if the Chamber would like to provide something to go in their packets that each participant receives. There was some discussion and Kent will take care of it.

Michigan Chamber of Commerce- Joanne had checked into joining the Michigan Chamber of Commerce. The cost is \$295.00 annually and there are many benefits. Joanne will get a copy of the paperwork from the Chamber to each Board Member. Tabled to next meeting.

Certificates of Origin- Joanne has done some checking on this topic and is trying to get in on a meeting at the Kalamazoo Chamber. Kent agreed we should follow through with this and see if we can provide this service (notarizing and signing on behalf of the Chamber).

Concerts in the Park- the Chamber is in need of someone to Chair these concerts. If we don't have a chairperson, the concerts will be discontinued for this year. June Kucks from the FolkLife Festival will discuss this at their next meeting on Wednesday and see if they have anyone interested in helping. John Farrand and June will discuss the details.

Announcements:

Dave Downs from the Chapman Memorial Church has volunteered to host the next Chamber meeting at the Church on May 14, 2007.

Motion by John Farrand, seconded by Dan Bialas to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

By Secretary Joanne Craddock