

Vicksburg Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes

February 11, 2008

Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm by President Gary Gray.

Roll Call: Gary Gray, Joanne Craddock, Lee Mortimer, Dave Downs, Dustin Morton, John Farrand, Kim Baker (late arrival). Not present: Joel Nelson.

Minutes: Correction to last month's minutes. New member was Mike Becker not Robert White. Robert White is the owner of Chicago Dogs. Motion by Lee Mortimer, seconded by Joanne Craddock to approve minutes with correction. Motion carried.

Appearances and Presentations:

June Kucks was in attendance to discuss the Concerts in the Park. June prepared a list of details regarding the concerts with suggestions, etc. June is willing to apply for the grant under the name of the K'zoo FolkLife Organization with the summer concerts being a co-sponsored event (ie Vicksburg Area Chamber and K'zoo Folklife presenting the concerts). Lee has someone who is willing to take charge of the Concerts, Linda White. Lee gave June Linda's number. We told June we would finish discussing and get back with her. The deadline for the grant is March 1st, so she'll need an answer asap.

Jim Smitchger of jAess Consulting talked about the new Chamber website and that I had requested more "databasing" type services. He estimates about \$200-300 to database some items. This would provide a master list so that when reins change within the Chamber it is always consistent. Jim and Joanne Craddock to discuss more.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Lee Mortimer presented the Treasurer's Report.

Marketing Report: Joanne reported several phone calls were received by the Chamber from out-of-towners asking for more details about the Ice Fest.

Membership Report: Around & Around LLC was presented for membership. Around & Around is owned by Lisa Deming and is the children's second hand store. Motion by Joanne Craddock, seconded by John Farrand to approve Around & Around LLC for membership. Motion carried. John Farrand has requested to step down from Chairperson of Membership and Events Committees. He will remain on the Board but due to the opening of a new Boundary Waters, he will not be able to commit to chairperson anymore.

Events Report: Looking for new Chairperson.

Economic Growth- Joanne gave Gary the original paperwork from Terry Housler on what was proposed for an economic growth committee. Gary will read over and discuss at next meeting.

Old Business:

John asked if anyone would like to follow up on the banner/flag possibility with Northern Lights Display. This is for banners/flags in town that businesses would sponsor and would be on flag poles/light poles at the holidays. No particular interest, so item tabled for now.

Chamber Plaques- Dave Downs has printed some of the plaques. These plaques are for the members to display in their store promoting their membership in the Chamber. Dave will finish the printing and we will continue to deliver them to members.

New Business:

Charles Zanayed has officially resigned from the Board. We will be looking for a replacement. If anyone is interested please contact Gary, Lee or Joanne.

Board Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm- moved to General Membership Meeting.

By Acting Secretary Joanne Craddock

Notes: 2/14/08 e-mail vote to approve proceeding with Concerts in the Park. Joanne will ask the Village if we can move the concerts to Oswalt Park. Motion approved. 2/14/08 e-mail vote to approve additional \$200-\$300 for completion of databasing on the website. Motion approved. Joanne will work with Jim on this.

General Membership Meeting began at 6:30 pm.

Appetizers were served. Members present introduced themselves and their companies.

Present were: Harry Conant of Harry's Real Wood Furniture; Gayle Kokmeyer from Bronson Vicksburg Hospital; Jim Smitchger of jAess Consulting; Randy Austin from MIR-REN Enterprises; Nicole Gray from LeBronze Studio; Gary Gray from Gray Builders Construction; John Farrand of Boundary Waters; Dave Downs of Chapman Memorial Church; Dustin Morton of Morton Family Chiropractic; Joanne Craddock from High Country Construction; Kim Baker & Cathy Almy from CATO Companies (Saw Mill Creek/Prairie Meadow Apartments); and Christine Freed of the Indian lake Nazarene Camp.

Joanne Craddock made a few announcements about the website, the success of the Ice Fest and what was coming up next.

The next General Membership meeting will be May 12, 2008 and location to be determined.

Meeting adjourned approximately 7:20 pm.