

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce December 17, 2007

Present: June Johnson, Karen Lindgren, Peggy Schagh, Amy Trast, Judy Nesvold, Margie Ritter, Mike Iaizzo, Cindy Feyder, Rick Utech, Brandon Sharp, Lilah Crowe, Sherry Frick

Absent: Michelle Rossi, Sholom Blake, Shannon Benolken, Kent Koerbitz, Linda Gibeau, Mike Birkeland, Roger Hoyum, Jim Millis

Incoming Board Members: Gary McInerney, Cheryl Lemler, Greg Chandler

Guests: Marla Beaty, Paula Frings

Chamber staff: Bud Stone, Renee Thompson, Kerry Larsen, Carie Olds

Karen Lindgren, Chair, called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the October 27, 2007 minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Brandon Sharp made a motion to approve the October 29th, 2007 meeting minutes. Rick Utech seconded the motion. Motion carries.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

FINANCIALS

The board reviewed the October and the November financials. Rick Utech made a motion to accept the financials.

Judy Nesvold seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

DISTRICT 318 LEVY

There were no comments regarding the District 318 levy.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

NEW ORLEANS CONFERENCE

The U.S. Chamber's Institute for a Competitive Workforce (ICW) and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) have been working together to try to help bridge many of the gaps that exist between business and higher education organizations nationwide.

As a result, Bud received an invitation from the United States Chamber to attend the AACC Workforce Development Institute (WDI) in New Orleans, LA as a panelist. Bud's role would be to

discuss how the Grand Rapids Area Chamber has worked with Itasca Community College to improve the city of Grand Rapids from both a business and economic development standpoint.

The U. S. Chamber will fund the offer.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

GRAND WORKS

Paul Frings gave the board an overview of the Grand Works program. The program is a partnership with Itasca Health and Human Resources that resulted from the Workforce Development Delegation going to Arlington.

The partnership involves a contract between the Chamber and Itasca Health and Human Resources. Itasca Health and Human Resources will be funding the program up to \$13,000 for National Work Readiness assessments. The assessments involve testing to determine what level a potential employee is at in regards to reading, situational judgment, math, and oral language.

Northway Group will provide two hours of team coaching. The programs is a pilot program involving testing of 10 individuals between January and June 2008.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

Paula then reported on the success of the CEO's in the schools program. Local CEO's visited the 8th grade classrooms in Big Fork, Northern Lights, Northland Remer and Grand Rapids on October 26, 2007 to talk to the students about potential careers for them. On February 27, 2008 the CEO's will visit the 8th grade students at Greenway.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

HIGHWAY 169 RESOLUTIONS

Prior to the board meeting the board members received an e-mail copy of the Highway 169 resolution of support and the Gas tax increase resolution of support for review.

Rick Utech made a motion to support the Highway 169 resolution with a resolution. Judy Nesvold seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Rick Utech made a motion to support the Gas Tax Increase with a resolution. Brandon Sharp seconded the motion. Motion carries.

ACTION: The two above stated resolutions will be added to the Chamber's resolution book.

OTHER

As an FYI, Bud informed the board that at the last Program Committee meeting, Linda Gibeau referenced the Blandin Foundation doing a pilot program using My Space to target the younger generation. This may be the way to effectively communicate with the younger generation of employees.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board of Directors meeting will be at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, January 28, 2008 at the Forest Lake.

Cindy Feyder made a motion to adjourn. Judy Nesvold seconded the motion; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.