

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce May 29, 2007 – Forest Lake Restaurant

Present: June Johnson, Karen Lindgren, Rick Utech, Kent Koerbitz, Amy Trast, Sherry Frick, Shannon Benolken, Cindy Feyder, Peggy Schagh, Brandon Sharp, Jim Millis, Mike Birkeland, Lilah Crowe, Judy Nesvold, Mike laizzo

Absent: Michelle Rossi, Roger Hoyum, Linda Gibeau, Margie Ritter, Sholom Blake

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

Karen Lindgren, Chair, called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the April 30, 2007 meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rick Utech made a motion to approve the April 30, 2007 meeting minutes. Amy Trast seconded the motion. Motion carries.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

FINANCIALS

The board reviewed the April financials and with no concerns,

Shannon Benolken made a motion to accept the April financials. Peggy Schagh seconded the motion, motion carries.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

BRANDING UPDATE

Lilah Crowe updated the board on the Branding initiative. Lilah explained that all the money is in place and that a core group has been put in place. The core group consists of 1 person from each organization that has invested in the initiative. Those in the core group include: Bud Stone, Lucy Flesner, Lynn DeGrio, Cheri Bialke and will also include someone from the Blandin Foundation. The core group will be meeting 1 -2 times per month.

Sherry Frick expressed some concerns regarding some of the requirements in the contract. Bud indicated that he thinks the meeting tomorrow is to go over the contract thoroughly.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

BIG BROTHER NEW MEMBER PROGRAM

Updates were given from the board members who were able to make contacts with new members.

ACTION: Kerry Larsen will continue sending the board new members to contact.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE

Carie Ann Olds gave the board an overview of the Young Professionals committee meetings that she and Kerry Larsen attended. Young Professionals is a group of Chamber member business professionals that meet to discuss Chamber issues and network. There are several interested parties in the Grand Rapids area that are interested in starting a Young Professionals group in Grand Rapids and will be meeting on June 25, 2007 to discuss that possibility. The new YP Committee will target professional business people under forty years old.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

MINNESOTA POWER RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

The board members received a copy of the Minnesota Power Boswell 3 Environmental Improvement Project Resolution of Support for their review prior to today's meeting.

After Bud reviewed a few changes that were made to the resolution since distribution, Rick Utech made a motion to support the Minnesota Power Boswell 3 Environmental Improvement Project through a resolution. The motion was seconded by Kent Korbitz. Motion passed.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

DEPOT COMMONS PROPERTY TAXES

Bud informed the board that he was able to get the value of the Depot Building reduced from \$397,000 to \$195,000, reducing the tax liability from \$18,000 to \$4000.

Bud also informed the board that the Depot will be fiscal agent for a grant that the Northern MN Builders Association received to conduct a building trades study for northeast Minnesota.

Also, the Depot will be the fiscal agent for the Branding Initiative.

ACTION: No further action necessary at the present.

OTHER

Bud informed the board that he received a call from Bob Buckler inquiring about whether or not the Grand Rapids Area Chamber would support a Governors veto override on the transportation bill. Bud informed Bob that the board would be supportive.

Bud also informed the board that the bonding bill was vetoed by the Governor. The bonding bill included \$30 million dollars for infrastructure for MN Steel. ESSAR Global, the company that is purchasing MN Steel, would like to have the infrastructure monies in place by November when they are scheduled to close on the project.

There is however, a bill on the Governor's desk that would provide \$14.9 million toward the project if the Governor signs the bill. The remainder of the infrastructure money could come from the IRR.

Bud gave an overview of the Chamber's membership committee. The committee has completed 32 surveys to date.

Senator Norm Coleman was the guest at this year's fishing opener BBQ. Senator Coleman did not have an agenda, he was just there to visit with people. There was a great turnout for the event.

Bud informed the board that Congressman Oberstar was in Grand Rapids on May 24, 2007 and had dinner with about 25 Chamber members, and also had a meeting with some of the Chamber's transportation committee members. Good discussion took place at both events.

Bud will be meeting with U.S Senator Amy Klobuchar on Wednesday, May 30, 2007 to discuss Grand Rapids Area issues.

ACTION: No further action necessary.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board of Directors meeting will be at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, June 25, 2007 at the Forest Lake.

Mike laizzo made a motion to adjourn. Jim Millis seconded the motion; motion carries. Meeting adjourned.