



*St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce*

PO Box 655, St. Francis, MN 55070

763-438-5163 • chamber@stfrancischamber.org • www.stfrancischamber.org

**Regular St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, March 18, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

Members present: David Johnson, Larry Anderson, Gary Zimmerman, Dana Kinde, Connie Tillman, Bob King  
Members absent: Kris Genck  
Others present: Alicia Loehlein, Don Hiller

**1. Call to Order**

- a. The regular monthly meeting of the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce was called to order by President David Johnson at 11:02 a.m., March 18, at the St. Francis Community Center.

**2. Previous Month's Minutes**

- a. February meeting minutes were approved.

**3. Reports**

- a. Treasurer's Report by Dana Kinde was approved.
  1. March Chamber bills due include expo flyers to Printing Unlimited, advertising to The Courier, and the area guide to Frugal Advertising, totaling \$2,506.19.
  2. Account balances: operating account balance of \$7,601.24, and money market of \$10,048.34, for a total balance of \$17,649.58.
  3. The board discussed changing the fiscal year to the calendar year, instead of the May-April as it is now. The change will make budgeting and taxes easier to compile. The form to change it can be filled out by us, otherwise our accountant, Sara Sauer, can help. The IRS fee is \$250 (per Sara, \$350 per IRS form, Dana will verify this amount.) The change was approved. Dana will submit the paperwork. The bylaws will be updated to reflect this change and its affect on the board election dates, etc.
  4. The board discussed clarifying the member due categories such as home-based business. The board agreed to eliminate the categories and make all dues \$150 for all members starting in 2010. This rate is still much less than neighboring Chambers.
  5. Dana will get a debit card under Alicia's name for major purchases as the credit card has a limit of \$300.
- b. Bowling Bash Report
  1. David J. said the event held February 21 at Patriot Lanes was a success. About 30 people attended and had fun and it was a good price for the event.

**4. Old Business**

- a. Business Expo Update
  1. As of 3/16/09 there are 48 businesses signed up. That number is up significantly up from last year at this time. The gym can accommodate up to 80 booths.
  2. If there is any room Connie will contact area non-profit groups to see if they would like a table.
  3. Connie is ready to order bags with the Chamber logo. She has a price of \$792 for 2,500 bags. She is waiting for a method of payment.
- b. Resource Guide Update
  1. The guide has been completed. The committee went with a distribution of 12,000 in The Courier, and a few hundred extra to be housed at The Courier office and distributed to businesses by Janice.
  2. Cost to The Chamber is approximately \$2,000.
  3. This guide is a good start. Future guides should include a map and calendar of events.

- c. 2009 Golf Tournament
  - 1. Kerby is still getting bids for the location, but the tentative date has been set for Wednesday, August 12, 9 a.m.
- d. Board matters—elections
  - 1. Even though there are three nominees and three spots to fill, we have still gone through the formality of sending out ballots. Nominees are Kerby Scherer, Brian Opp and Janice Audette. Ballots can be returned via fax or mail. The board has approved Lynn Moe of Village Bank to take over David Langseth's term.
- e. Diversity Group Update
  - 1. Dana reported the community diversity group is still working to create stickers for display in businesses.

## 5. New Business

- a. Credit Card Processing
  - 1. Alicia has received questions about if the Chamber can process credit cards to pay for member dues or expo registration. Currently the Chamber cannot do this.
  - 2. Alicia researched alternatives and PayPal has a service that would only incur fees per transaction of 2-3%. Alicia can set this up through the web site.
  - 3. The board agreed to test the service with member dues to start with and charge a convenience fee to cover the transaction charge.
- b. Future Event Ideas
  - 1. David J. will look into getting a city leader for an event in early April.
  - 2. Dana said we should continue the new member showcase, as that was well received. She would also like to see a welcoming committee. We need to ask what is the benefit to the business owner?
  - 3. The board discussed if a fee should be charged for events and if they should be open to the public.
  - 4. David J. said there are plenty of good ideas, they just need to be implemented.
- c. Storage Shed Keys
  - 1. David is tracking down the keys to the storage shed. Connie, Kerby and Alicia have one. David is going to check to see who else does, such as Amy and Lori. Tom does not have one.
- d. St. Francis Lions
  - 1. Don Hiller of the St. Francis Lions was in attendance to express that the Lions would like to work more closely with the Chamber for community events. Alicia will put some of their upcoming events on the eNews.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:15 p.m.

Recorded by Alicia Loehlein, Service Representative