



St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce

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**Regular St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 18, 2007
Meeting Minutes**

The regular monthly meeting of the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce was called to order by President Tom Larson at 10:05 a.m., April 18, 2007, at The Ponds in St. Francis.

Members present: Tom Larson, Dana Kinde, Connie Tillman, Gail Mengelkoch, Dave Schulte, Lori Gerhardson, Stacy Ridge, Amy Lazere and Brian Opp

Members absent: none

Others present: Alicia Loehlein

1. Call to Order

2. Previous Month's Minutes

- a. March meeting minutes were approved.
- b. Dana questioned the cost of the Oak Grove sign. Tom addressed this later.

3. Reports

- a. Treasurer's Report by Dana Kinde was approved.
 1. March Chamber bills due include City of Oak Grove permit, \$350; Alicia Loehlein for stamps \$39; ISD15 for mailings \$30.18; The Courier for the Chamber page \$450; The Ponds for networking meal \$150.
 2. Account balances: operating account balance of \$8,627.20; golf account balance of \$5,798.34; and dinner account balance \$7,092.18; for total deposits of \$21,517.72. The check for the welcome sign had not yet cleared.
- b. Membership Report by Alicia Loehlein
 1. There are currently 72 members, the status of at least 2 in question.
 2. Tom said the Chamber needs to maintain its numbers and provide a service and the board needs to canvass businesses.

4. Old Business

- a. Board of Directors Election Results
 1. The election committee met April 16 to count the results. 39 ballots were returned.
 2. Alicia presented the results. The new board members are: Kris Genck, Bob King, Gary Zimmerman and Jeff Conner. Other candidates were Janice Audette, Lisa Kungel and Kristie Wilmer.
 3. The board approved the results.
- b. City Welcome Sign Update
 1. Tom talked to the City of Oak Grove and after modifications to the sign's size were made, the city gave the go-ahead. The \$350 permit fee was returned and

the project did not have to go through any city departments, such as planning and zoning.

2. Dave and his maintenance staff will pick an exact location.
3. The Highway 47 sign has been staked. Both signs should be up in a few weeks.
- c. Pioneer Days Donation Request
 1. Dana received a request for a donation of \$1000 to Pioneer Days, as done in the past. The board approved this request.
- d. Chamber Page in The Courier
 1. The board thought the Chamber page in the April Courier was well done.
 2. The page will be continued quarterly, the next one to be in July.
- e. Business Expo Survey
 1. Alicia and Connie have talked about putting out a survey to members about their interest in an area business expo.
 2. Alicia presented a survey proof, which included other general member questions. The board suggested moving the expo question to the top.
 3. Alicia will mail and email the survey. If response is low, she will also fax.
- f. St. Francis Ambassador Needs
 1. Gail said that it would be nice if the Ambassadors had funds and support to make a nice float.
 2. The board questioned why the city was not more involved.
 3. Amy will contact the city and work to arrange a meeting with representatives from The Chamber, the city and the Ambassadors.

5. New Business

- a. Sunrise Breakfast, April 25, Papa's Café
 1. Tom has asked the Anoka County Sheriff and St. Francis Police Chief to speak on business security.
 2. Tom said the board needs to try to bring in notable speakers.
- b. Annual Meeting
 1. Tom will discuss where money is spent, past events and upcoming events.
 2. The board discussed the city's formation of an economic development group. The city is holding an open house on the topic in May. The Chamber would like to be involved.
- c. Colby Lohse Benefit
 1. Colby, age 5, the son of District employee Alisha Lohse, has been diagnosed with leukemia.
 2. Tom would like Chamber members to consider donations to his benefit.
- d. Chamber Executive Office
 1. For 2006-07 year, starting in July of 06, The Chamber paid the District \$2,000 for Alicia's services.
 2. Alicia's Courier supervisor asked her to keep a log of her Chamber activities. She averages about 15 hours a month on Chamber tasks.
 3. Tom has calculated that for 2007-08, The Chamber pay the District \$2574 for Alicia's services.
 4. The board approved this amount.

- e. Kids Day America
 - 1. Brian would like the Chamber to donate to the event, to be held May 19, from noon-3 p.m., in the Opp office area.
 - 2. The board approved a \$250 donation to go toward raffle items, etc.
- f. Friday Night Car Show
 - 1. Connie reminded the board about the Friday night car shows, held each Friday in the summer in the County Market parking lot.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.

Alicia took a photo of the outgoing board members.

The annual meeting followed. Tom gave a short presentation on the Chamber's projects and introduced the new board members.

Alicia presented the new board members with the flyer of Chamber events and a copy of the bylaws. She also took a photo of the three new board members, one was not present.

Guests were: Jeff Conner, Gary Zimmerman, Bob King, Kristie Wilmer, Matt Hylan, Tammy Sakry, and Karen Johnson.

The next regular meeting of the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Board will be held Wednesday, May 16 at Hong Kong Delight, 11 a.m.

Recorded by Alicia Loehlein, service representative.