



St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce

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**Regular St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, May 20, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

Members present: Janice Audette, Lynn Moe, Kris Genck, Brian Opp, Connie Tillman, David Johnson, Larry Anderson, and Bob King
Members absent: Gary Zimmerman
Others present: Alicia Loehlein, Don Hiller, Barb Held

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 11:03 a.m., May 20, at the St. Francis Community Center.

2. Previous Month's Minutes

- a. April meeting minutes were approved.

3. Reports

- a. Introduction of new board members: Brian Opp, Kerby Scherer, Janice Audette, Lynn Moe
- b. The following officers were elected to serve until the new fiscal year in January.
 1. President: David Johnson
 2. Vice President: Brian Opp
 3. Treasurer: Kerby Scherer
 4. Secretary: Janice Audette
- c. Reaffirmation of Alicia as Service Representative approved.
- d. Treasurer's Report by Lynn Moe.
 1. May Chamber bills due include: expo printing, expo building fees, expo booths, advertising, postage, networking lunch, PO box rental, and general printing.
 2. Account balances: operating account balance of \$13,086.23, and money market of \$10,056.93, for a total balance of \$23,143.16.

4. Old Business

- a. 2009 Golf Tournament Update
 1. The Ponds came in with the lowest bid for the golf tournament so it will be held there Wednesday, August 12, 9:30 a.m.
 2. Kerby will wait until after Pioneer Days to start promoting it. Janice will help distribute a letter about it to her customers.
- b. Business Expo Recap
 1. The April 25 event was a success, with more than 750 attendees and 72 exhibitors. Moving into the gym was the key.
 2. The event earned more than \$4,000 profit for The Chamber.
 3. Next year the committee will look at a date earlier in April to attract more people.
- c. Review Bylaws
 1. Alicia re-worded the bylaws to reflect the new fiscal year change, which is the calendar year, excluding December events. The board also discussed combining the annual dinner and annual meeting.
 2. Alicia has also added a section about having a quorum at meetings in order to conduct business.
- d. Chamber Points
 1. At the April meeting the board discussed the idea of Chamber Points as a way to get more members involved. Members who volunteer would get points good toward discounts on dues, etc.

2. The board discussed requiring members to volunteer at least 5 hours a year and recognize volunteers at a banquet.
3. Other ideas were to have family members and/or high school students for their community service.
4. The board decided to be more forward with asking for volunteers and if that doesn't work, then look into the point system.
- e. Farmer's market
 1. The board had learned of a farmer's market started in Nowthen and discussed the possibility in St. Francis.
 2. It was decided to forgo the idea given the competition for dates with surrounding communities and the fact that it would take away from Chamber businesses.
- f. New Member Showcase Recap
 1. The May 13 event was a success, despite the low member turnout. Several new members were on hand and St. Francis mayor Jerry Tveit answered questions.
 2. The board discussed continuing events and rotating times in the hope of attracting more members.

5. New Business

- a. Assigning Committee Chairs
 1. The committee chairperson will coordinate and organize events and should make an outline of their job description, including contacts, so future chairs know what is involved.
 2. Chairs are: Pioneer Days-David, National Night Out-Lynn, Golf-Kerby, Annual Dinner-Kris.
- b. Monthly Networking Ideas
 1. David would like to see quarterly networking events and have every board member organize an event.
 2. Connie said it would be nice to plan ahead for the year and know the dates ahead of time.
 3. Ideas discussed included business coaching, county commissioner, police chief and government officials.
- c. Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
 1. David would like the board to look into whether our Chamber should join the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and its Grow Minnesota program grant opportunities.
- d. Audio/Video equipment for St. Francis meetings
 1. The community is on the defense again following another city council censure of Councilmember LeRoy Schaffer.
 2. The board discussed purchasing audio/video equipment for the school/city to use for their board meetings and then the meetings can be uploaded to web sites as a better way to keep the public informed.
 3. David will look into pricing for this equipment.

6. Other

- a. The Village Bank Golfing for Groceries event is June 8. The Chamber will once again sponsor a hole. Volunteers are needed to man the hole. Alicia will mention this in the eNews.

The regular monthly meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:50 p.m.

Recorded by Alicia Loehlein, Service Representative