



St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce  
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## Regular St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting Wednesday, August 16, 2006 Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce was called to order by President Tom Larson at 11:08 a.m., August 16, 2006, at Billy's Bar & Grill in St. Francis.

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

Members absent: Amy Lazere

Others present: Kerby Scherer, Alicia Loehlein

### 1. Call to Order

### 2. Previous Month's Minutes

- a. July's minutes were approved.

### 3. Reports

- a. Treasurer's Report by Dana Kinde
  1. July Chamber bills due: Qwest for phone, \$30.13; Capitol Indemnity for insurance, \$85.64; ISD 15 for postage, \$67.86; The Courier for advertising/publications, \$458.03; Mau's Corner for storage, \$240.00; Papa's Café for breakfast, \$166.15; Tom Larson for ice cream scoops, \$7.20; Isanti Rental for slushy machine, \$161.88.
  2. Account balances as of 7/30/06: operating account balance of \$4,776.92; golf account balance of \$4,147.10; and dinner account balance \$4,870.46; for total deposits of \$13,794.48.
  3. The board agreed that the treasurer will automatically pay reoccurring bills, such as Qwest.
- b. 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Chamber golf tournament held August 7, 2006 at The Ponds
  1. Kerby and Dana shared with the board the monetary results from the tournament: 65 golfers, 19 hole sponsors, \$50 donation, 6 dinners, silent auction: total of \$7,705 profit, all not yet collected. Bills due include The Ponds, prizes, cameras, T&S Trophies, Printing Unlimited, total of \$5,069, for a net profit of \$2,636, the highest thus far in the tournament's history.
  2. Connexus Energy paid for a foursome, but did not attend. The board agreed to refund their \$320 registration.
- c. National Night Out, held August 1, 2006 at Community Park
  1. Lori reported that the night was great, and the rain did not affect attendance.
  2. The board suggested getting cups with the Chamber logo. Debbie Bray will be contacted on the matter.
- d. Cornfest, held August 12, 2006 at Community Park
  1. The event went well, Tom wants the Chamber to continue participation in these community events.

#### **4. Old Business**

- a. Chamber-sponsored city entrance monument
  - 1. Stacy has been in contact with Third Dimension Stoneworks in Elk River and Sign Station in Anoka. Both have similar bids; Sign Station's would be part fiberglass, Third Dimension would be all stone. The board agreed that a solid sign that does not breakdown would be best.
  - 2. The board discussed possible locations, along County Road 9, or the north and south city limits of Highway 47.
  - 3. Two representatives from Third Dimension were on hand to show examples and answer questions. They said they could work with the budget of \$5,000 to \$7,000 for one approximately 4x8 ft. sign. Tom requested a quote for one and two signs and requested a drawing of the sign.
  - 4. Tom will present the ideas to the St. Francis City Council for input on regulations, etc.
  - 5. The board discussed what the sign should say and ideas included "Welcome to the city of St. Francis" with a plaque on the side saying the Chamber donated the sign.
- b. Member update
  - 1. Dana presented the list of what members have and have not paid their dues.
  - 2. Alicia will call those who have not paid.
- c. New member packet
  - 1. Alicia and Tom presented the proof of the new member packet and brochure and a list of quotes from Printing Unlimited.
  - 2. The board agreed to have Alicia go ahead and print the packet as presented.
  - 3. Alicia will contact members to see if they want business coupons in the packet.
- d. Volunteer Team to solicit new members
  - 1. Dana, Stacy and Gail volunteered to target area businesses, including Oak Grove, with the selling point that the Chamber is made up of volunteers.
- e. Format for Sunrise Breakfasts
  - 1. The board discussed changing the format/time of the breakfasts in order to attract more people. Ideas including a lunch or dinner at a park.
  - 2. The next breakfast will be held Nov. 8 at the ISD 15 Central Services Center and Tom will find a topic/speaker.

#### **5. New Business**

- a. Sales Representative for Chamber memberships
  - 1. The board discussed providing a commission to Janice Audette, who does sales for The Courier. She has many contacts in the area and can help solicit members. The board has provided her with a \$50 gift card in the past.
  - 2. The board agreed to pay Janice \$10 for every new member and she must collect the money and give it to Alicia.

3. The board looked at the current dues and made the following changes: \$150 for all businesses; \$100 for home-based businesses; and \$75 for an individual. The \$125 first-year dues were eliminated. The new dues will be effective in 2007.
- b. Chamber banquet, October 27, 2006
  1. The board agreed to have the 2006 fundraiser banquet at The Refuge.
  2. Amy and Lori will help organize the event.
- c. Chamber website improvements
  1. Alicia proposed the changes she would like to make to the website; citing the Cambridge Chamber as an example.
  2. The board agreed to allow Alicia to make the changes she feels are necessary.
- d. Nancy Mikre and a possible East Bethel Chamber of Commerce
  1. Tom has met with Nancy to discuss her ideas and if East Bethel would want to merge with the St. Francis Chamber.
  2. Nancy will attend the Sept. 20 board meeting to discuss the subject.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Board will be held Wednesday, September 20, 2006 at The Ponds at 11 a.m.

Recorded by Alicia Loehlein, service representative.