



St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce

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**Regular St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, August 20, 2008 Meeting Minutes**

Members present: Gary Zimmerman, David Johnson, Connie Tillman, Dana Kinde, Larry Anderson,
and David Langseth

Members absent: Dave Schulte, Kris Genck, Bob King

Others present: Alicia Loehlein

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 11:07 a.m., August 20, at the St. Francis Community Center.

2. Previous Month's Minutes

- a. July meeting minutes were approved. Alicia will re-email them to the members who did not get them.

3. Reports

- a. Treasurer's Report by Dana Kinde was approved.
 1. July Chamber bills due include Printing Unlimited for hole sponsor signs, The Ponds for wine tasting food, The Courier for the August Chamber page, and iPower for web site renewal.
 2. Account balances: operating account balance of \$6,360.57, and money market of \$10,009.25, for a total balance of \$16,369.82.
 3. David questioned why such a drop in total balance from last month. Dana thinks it may be golf tournament expenses and will follow up on that.
 4. The board wondered why the bill from The Ponds was so high for the last networking event. After discussion it was decided to set aside \$2,500 for an annual event budget and try to get estimates before hand.
- b. National Night Out Report by Dana and Connie
 1. Dana, Connie and Karen Baldwin served approximately 450 root beer floats at the event.
 2. Connie noticed that something was missing; it just seemed to be you came for free food; there was no organized program.
 3. The board discussed options for next year, such as organizing a program with the city, encourage mingling of the crowd and give away prizes to keep people there.
- c. Wine Tasting/New Member Showcase Report by David Johnson
 1. Those in attendance agreed it was a good event, but were disappointed in the low member turnout.
 2. It was agreed to do the event again, or at least to piece the showcase onto other events, and perhaps do that once or twice a year.

4. Old Business

- a. Area Guide/Mailers
 1. Connie has been gathering information. The who and when needs to be decided.
 2. The area guide committee met following today's board meeting.

b. City Council Update

1. Larry Anderson and Amy Lazere are of two of the five residents who have written a letter asking to recall Councilmember Schaffer due to his inappropriate representation of the city. The recall is in process and they are gathering signatures. As of 8/20 they had 400 of the 741 needed by September 6. Larry has been finding most people, especially younger people, don't even know anything about the situation.
2. Mr. Schaffer is fighting the recall on grounds that he has been doing his job adequately. Larry said his group followed city guidelines and have documented their case.

5. **New Business**

a. Event Ideas

1. The board discussed possible event and speaker ideas, such as a potluck, speed networking, and chili cook-off, and switch up times to have events, even possibly on Saturday.
2. With low participation, Dana said it may be necessary to call members and if they cannot attend, find out why.
3. A September event, preferably a breakfast, will be planned around a speaker. David J. will work on setting this up for September 18 or 24.

b. Email Newsletter

1. The Cambridge chamber puts out a weekly email newsletter. Alicia researched options for this and there are several companies that provide this service for less than \$15 a month. These services provide templates, list management and reports, and survey tools.
2. The board discussed highlighting members and upcoming events in the newsletter.
3. Alicia is willing to organize the newsletter but would like help in gathering the content. She will draft a letter to mail to members to gauge their interest and to begin gathering content.

c. Annual Dinner

1. Amy has spoken with member Captain's in Isanti about hosting the annual dinner in October. Friday, October 10 is the tentative date. (Date later changed to October 24.)
2. Connie said there has been something missing at the dinners, such as introductions and a program.

d. How to Spend Chamber Funds

1. The board discussed how to use funds.
2. Dana suggested a playground at a park.
3. Connie suggested purchasing a tarp for use to cover the gym floor for the business expo and it could be used for other community events as well.

e. Snowmobiling in St. Francis

1. Gary again brought up the snowmobile ban in St. Francis. He would like to go to city council again to get it overturned as it is detrimental to commerce in town.
2. Gary will work to get other businesses committed.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:20 p.m.

Recorded by Alicia Loehlein, Service Representative