



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 Meeting Wednesday, October 18, 2006 Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce was called to order by President Tom Larson at 11:05 a.m., October 18, 2006, at Mansetti's in St. Francis.

Members present: Tom Larson, Amy Lazere, Stacy Ridge, Lori Gerhardson, Connie Tillman, and Dana Kinde.

Members absent: Gail Mengelkoch, Brian Opp, Dave Schulte

Others present: Alicia Loehlein, Nancy Mikre

1. Call to Order

2. Previous Month's Minutes

- a. September minutes were approved.

3. Reports

- a. Treasurer's Report by Dana Kinde was approved.
 1. September Chamber bills due include The Courier for advertising, envelopes and business cards; Amy for NNO cups and Printing Unlimited for folders and envelopes, for total expenses of \$325.85.
 2. Account balances: operating account balance of \$5,968.07; golf account balance of \$5,078.34; and dinner account balance \$4,714.46; for total deposits of \$15,760.87.

4. Old Business

- a. Chamber-sponsored city entrance monument
 1. Stacy presented the drawing, specifications and quote of \$6,300 per sign from 3rd Dimension Stoneworks.
 2. Tom attended the St. Francis City Council meeting and they are receptive to the project. Tom will contact Barb Held with the city of St. Francis to see about permits and location.
 3. The board discussed having a plaque to denote the Chamber's sponsorship of the project.
 4. Tom would like to see the project completed this fall.
- b. Meet the Candidates, Monday, October 30, 6:30-8 p.m., city hall.
 1. Tom and Amy have been working with the St. Francis Women of Today to co-sponsor the event for St. Francis City Council candidates.
 2. Tom will come up with a list of questions.

- c. Annual Dinner, Friday, October 27, 2006 at The Refuge
 - 1. Amy had a count of 29 people and 4 silent auction items. Amy will try to solicit more.
 - 2. Setup will be noon on Friday.
 - 3. Dana will ask the St. Francis Ambassadors to help.
- d. Lighting of the Park, December 1, 7-8 p.m., Woodbury Park
 - 1. Alicia will see that the event is printed in The Courier and she will make a flyer to email to businesses to promote the event.

5. New Business

- a. Possible Chamber growth/expansion to East Bethel
 - 1. Nancy Mikre of Village Bank in East Bethel was in attendance. She said approximately 20 businesses in East Bethel want to form/join a chamber.
 - 2. The board discussed forming an Oak Grove, East Bethel, Ham Lake, St. Francis chamber versus just staying St. Francis.
 - 3. Board members in support of a merger said it would be a great way to grow the Chamber and community and promote business to a wider area through referrals and networking. Committees would be vital to cover membership and city festivals. Crossover with East Bethel would create a more powerful organization.
 - 4. Board members hesitant about a merger questioned the benefit to St. Francis businesses. St. Francis is tight-knit and may want to stay that way. Members questioned how a project in another town would benefit a small business in St. Francis.
 - 5. Nancy will meet with the interested businesses in East Bethel and try to form a group of at least six core businesses.
 - 6. Tom suggested we survey our own membership about a merger idea and Amy will gather information about how other larger chambers operate.
- b. Business Supports Education Ad
 - 1. Tom is placing an advertisement in the November Courier listing businesses that support education and a reminder to vote Nov. 7. 20 businesses at \$14 each will pay for the ad. Tom will call Chamber members to solicit their support.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Board will be held Wednesday, November 15 at Hong Kong Delight in St. Francis.

Recorded by Alicia Loehlein, service representative.