



St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce  
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## Regular St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting Wednesday, November 15, 2006 Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce was called to order by President Tom Larson at 11:11 a.m., November 15, 2006, at Hong Kong Delight in St. Francis.

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

Members absent: Lori Gerhardson, Amy Lazere, Alicia Loehlein

Others present: Paula Heffron-Edward Jones

### 1. Call to Order

### 2. Previous Month's Minutes

- a. October minutes were approved.

### 3. Reports

a. Treasurer's Report by Dana Kinde was approved.

1. October Chamber bills due included The Courier for advertising; Kerby Scherer-extension cord; Alicia Loehlein-stamps/envelopes for total expenses of \$253.63
2. Account balances: operating account balance of \$6,009.43; golf account balance of \$5,698.34; and dinner account balance \$7,892.46; for total deposits of \$19,600.23.

b. **Dinner Report**-59 dinners, smaller than usual. Board discussed doing the banquet later in the winter to spread out the sponsored events and to entice a larger crowd. In addition, more time would be allowed to garner auction items. The event is too close to the golf tournament and we need to be more creative in our "come on" enticements. i.e. entertainment.

c. **East Bethel Chamber**-Tom conversed with Nancy Mikre from East Bethel Village bank. They have decided to form their own Chamber and plan on an initial meeting in 2 weeks. Tom indicated he would be glad to meet with the group and help in any way in terms of organization.

#### 4. Old Business

- a. **Chamber Packet Distribution**-Alicia Loehlein put together packets for each Board member. Comments were very favorable and praise for the job well done. Additional packets are available for any board member that would want to have some on hand for new business acquaintances. The packets will be sent to new members
- b. **City Welcome Signs**-State permits are in the hands of MNDOT. Tom and City Streets and Parks Supervisor, Jim Lacey, determined the location. Jim has been in contact with contractor. Contractor wants to start this fall. Tom to set meeting with Dave Schulte for placement of sign on County 9 on Ponds property.

#### 5. New Business

a. **Woodbury Park Decoration Day**-Tuesday, November 28, 2006 @ 11:00 AM. Tom will contact Kerby for decorations. Those that can help should show up and the Flower shop will be open if one needs to warm up. Tom to get flyers to SF students about the event.

Lighting the Lights Ceremony- Friday, December 1, 7-8 PM. Assignments:

Kerby-Cookies

Amy- Entertainment

Laurie-Cider

Gail-Santa (either Randy Dressen or Rick Mengeklkoch)

b. **Business to Business Breakfast/Lunch or other?** An evening is scheduled for Wednesday, March 7, 4:30-6:00 PM at the Ponds. Hor de voeres will be available compliments of the Chamber. A "speed business to business" get acquainted game will be played.

#### c. Chamber Needs from the Courier-

- The Chamber would prefer to purchase a page again for just Chamber news and articles maybe 2x per year. Look to this winter.
- Have Alicia put a link from the CE website to the Chamber and visa versa.
- See if Alicia can go to the new businesses joining and get a photo for each issue of the Courier. Gail volunteered the Ambassadors to also go along for the photo-op.
- We need a complete photo of the Chamber Board.
- Purchase an ad in other papers inviting people to visit, shop, eat and recreate in St. Francis.
- Put an insert in the Courier for residential consumption about coming to St. Francis and list all the businesses that are Chamber members.
- Direct Mailing to St. Francis, Oak Grove, Burns and southern Isanti County residents-get mailing list from County. Can Alicia-mock up a mailer of "what Chamber does and promotes?"

**d. Chamber Promotions Ideas**

- Plan a Business Expo for the spring.
- Welcome Packet to new residents
- Educational seminars as part of Business to Business Gatherings.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Board will be held Wednesday, January 17 at 11:00 AM at The Ponds in St. Francis.

Recorded by Alicia Loehlein, service representative.