



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 of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, November 19, 2008 Meeting Minutes**

Members present: David Johnson, Larry Anderson, Kris Genck, Bob King, Gary Zimmerman,
Dana Kinde
Members absent: David Langseth, Dave Schulte, Connie Tillman
Others present: Alicia Loehlein, Amy Lazere, Kerby Scherer, Renee Havelka, Lori Smith, Lynn Moe

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 11:02 a.m., November 19, at the St. Francis Community Center.

2. Previous Month's Minutes

- a. October meeting minutes were approved.

3. Reports

- a. Treasurer's Report by Dana Kinde was approved.
 1. October Chamber bills due include coloring contest flyers, water for candidate forum, postage, Courier ad, Courier postcard.
 2. Account balances: operating account balance of \$4,003.17, and money market of \$10,028.18, for a total balance of \$14,031.35.
- b. Nov. 13 Networking Breakfast Report by David Johnson.
 1. A dozen people attended the event at Billy's which featured a very informative presentation by Bob Hoenie who shared what government resources are available to businesses for free.
 2. The board discussed the low attendance and Kris wondered if attendance mattered that much. As long as the events are valuable for those who do attend, that is all we can do.
 3. Events such as the recycling speaker ended up quite beneficial for those who attended and followed through. These successes should be highlighted.
- c. October 23 Meet the Candidates Report by David Johnson.
 1. About 40 citizens attended the candidate forum hosted by The Chamber, moderated by David J.
 2. It was a good event and a great way to keep citizens informed.

4. Old Business

- a. Resource Guide Update
 1. Alicia mailed a letter about interest in a resource guide to Chamber members and St. Francis and other area businesses.
 2. The deadline to return the interest form is Dec. 19.
 3. Corey Nelson of the Frugal Shopper will be calling businesses about display advertising.
 4. The committee met afterwards briefly to discuss how far out to go with the guide.
 5. David J. noted that the Scotsman will be publishing an insert for St. Francis and we should keep Karen Barth of ECM in mind for future guides.
- b. City Council Update
 1. A recall election for Councilmember Schaffer will be held December 16 with a majority (51%) needed to be successful.
- c. Holiday Events
 1. Decorating of the park will be held November 20. Kerby will bring the tree and items from the storage shed.
 2. Coloring contest entries have been good.

3. Events on December 6 include the lighting of the tree, with the Madrigal Singers and hot beverages.
 4. Larry and Gary will look into renting a sign for Woodbury Park to let people know what is going on.
 5. Andover Stables will provide hayrides at County Market from 1-3 p.m. Dec. 6.
- d. Snowmobiling in St. Francis.
1. Gary and David J. have gathered signatures of businesses in support of a trail through St. Francis along Highway 47. They have not come across anyone who does not support it.
 2. Now it is a question of timing, given the new mayor and council.

5. New Business

- a. Chamber Cell Phone
1. Kerby has had the Chamber phone in his name through Qwest for about 5 years; however Qwest is now switching to Verizon.
 2. Kerby has researched other options and likes T-Mobile best, which would offer a free phone with 300 minutes a month for \$30.
 3. Kerby will go ahead with T-Mobile and put it in The Chamber's name under Alicia, using The Courier's address.
- b. Avon Fundraiser
1. Chamber member Renee Havelka of Avon presented information on Avon's Secret Santa fundraising program.
 2. The Chamber and its members would buy stuffed bears at \$20, then Renee would distribute them where we wanted them to go. 40% of the profits would go to The Chamber.
 3. Dana said the fundraiser did not really fit into the mission of The Chamber, and was a bit much now, on top of asking for resource guide advertising too.
 4. The Board agreed to forgo the fundraiser this year and look into promoting things like food shelf donations. David will get in touch with the pastor at the First Baptist food shelf about promoting donations to them.
- c. Event Ideas
1. Tentative plans are for a bowling/chili cook-off event. Amy is organizing this.
 2. David will try to arrange a breakfast in mid-November.
- d. David Langseth Membership
1. David Langseth has been unable to attend many board meetings due to conflicts. David J. has spoken with him about his membership, and they agreed it would be best to find someone to replace him.
 2. Lynn Moe of Village Bank, who was in attendance at this meeting, was approved to replace David Langseth, then serve in Dana's position because her term is up next year. (Note: Lynn's approval awaits further review of Chamber bylaws regarding two board members from the same business. This will be discussed further at the January board meeting. No December meeting will be held.)

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:15 p.m.

Recorded by Alicia Loehlein, Service Representative