



St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce

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**Regular St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, September 16, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

Members present: Larry Anderson Janice Audette, Gary Zimmerman, David Johnson, Kerby Scherer, Lynn Moe, Jeff Kearney (on behalf of Bob King)
Members absent: Brian Opp and Kris Genck
Others present: Alicia Loehlein, Don Hiller, Stephanie Wallin, Tom Larson

1. Call to Order

1. The regular monthly meeting of the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce was called to order by President David Johnson at 11:03 a.m., September 16, at the St. Francis Community Center.

2. Guest Tom Larson

1. Tom Larson of Independent School District 15
 - a. Tom spoke about the upcoming levy vote in the district and that if it does not pass, more than \$1 million in cuts will be made, in addition to those already made last year, which puts ISD 15 well below the state average for funding.
 - b. More cuts to the schools will negatively impact the community. Business benefit from good schools.

3. Previous Month's Minutes

1. August meeting minutes were approved.

4. Reports

1. Treasurer's Report by Kerby Scherer was approved.
 - a. Only a few members have yet to respond as to whether they will be renewing membership.
 - b. Chamber bills from the previous month include: advertising in The Courier, web host renewal, golf signs, ISD 15 breakfast donation, networking lunch food, service representative fee and postage.
 - c. Account balances: operating account balance of \$5,232.27, and money market of \$10,082.45.
 - d. The golf tournament statement has been finalized. Net profit was \$1,989.36.
2. Marketing Your Business with ActionCoach event recap
 - a. Approximately 15 people attended the lunch on August 26. Feedback was positive.
3. Back to school breakfast recap
 - a. Larry Anderson and Sandy Morgan sat at the Chamber table at the ISD 15 back to school employee breakfast and meeting. They handed out many area guides. They only stayed an hour.

5. Old Business

1. Halloween Event
 - a. A community/business Halloween business to business trick-or-treat will be held October 30, 3-6 p.m. Participants will be listed on the web site. Alicia will get out promotional materials for it including flyers to Chamber members and an ad in The Courier.
2. Electronic Sign for City
 - a. Progress on purchasing an electronic message board with the city has been slow.
 - b. Chamber funds need to be earmarked for spending by the end of the year.
3. Snowmobile Trail
 - a. The snowmobile club is working with the city and MNDOT to get permits. The trail was one of a few in the state that was funded by the DNR.

6. New Business

1. School Board Candidate Forum
 - a. In the past the Chamber has sponsored candidate forums and decided to have one again this year for the school board candidates.
 - b. Alicia has reserved the ISD 15 Central Services Center for October 21 and will make an ad to appear in The Courier to promote the event.
 - c. The Women of Today have usually co-sponsored the event and helped with refreshments. Alicia will contact them.
 - d. David will be the moderator if someone else, such as Kurt Daubt cannot.
2. Board Member Election
 - a. Janice has been gathering names for the board member election.
 - b. Nomination forms are due back October 15, ballots go out mid November, to be returned by December 15.
3. Holiday Events
 - a. Gary and Janice are working on the events including Lighting of the Park, coloring contest, etc. County Market will have events in their parking lot/entry as well on December 5 along with the park lighting.

7. Other

1. Dennis Berg has been confirmed for the Sept. 23 networking event. Alicia will arrange for Tasty Pizza to cater.
2. The St. Francis Fire Department is asking for donations. The board decided to not donate as a Chamber but rather let individual businesses donate.
3. David will look into getting business card holders/nametags with the Chamber logo and a place to insert a business card.
4. The board decided not to purchase an ad in The Courier in support of the school district levy as it is a divisive issue and the Chamber would like to remain neutral.

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

Recorded by Alicia Loehlein, Service Representative