

West Union Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors Meeting
MINUTES—March 13, 2012

Members Present: Jenni Elsbernd, Melody Patrick, Brent Parker, Judd Swensen, Bob Vagts, Bridget Parker, Bill Ziegler

Meeting was brought to order by Melody Patrick, Vice President, at 8:04am at the West Union Chamber Office.

Prairie View came to address the Board to get support for their Walk/Open House on Friday May 4th. Board agreed to support the event. Motion to donate \$25 in Chamber Bucks and provide punch/stamp cards to businesses was made by Brent and a second by Judd. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of Agenda & Minutes:

- Motion to approve Agenda was made by Brent and second by Jenni. All in favor, motion carried.
- Motion to approve minutes from February meeting was made by Jenni and second by Judd. All in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report:

- **Account Balances**
Bank balance as of 03/12/2012 is \$10,358.01 in checking, \$2,583.48 in savings and \$4,452.79 in fireworks fund. Any finance questions, please let Bridget know. Motion to approve finances was made by Jenni and second my Judd. All in favor, motion carried.
- **Construction Loan and Costs**
Board discussed the amount of updates that need to be made to the basement. Agreed to hold off until the main projects are done to see what funds are available. Facade Grant is being applied for to fund new upstairs windows. Robin is working on it and the grant is for \$7-10,000. Chamber would be responsible for contributing \$2,500 to the project.

Committee Reports:

- **Retail**
Pampered Night Out was a success.
Diva Days is coming up on April 12. All goodie bags will be distributed at the dinner on the 12th. Next meeting will take place at the Chamber to stuff goodie bags.
Announcement that West Union Days was being canceled in 2012 was in the papers last week. Most of the feedback received has been positive as people understand that the streetscape project makes things challenging. However, Miss WU will be a priority. Board would like to have Miss WU crowned at July 4th festivities. Motion was made by Judd and a second by Brent. All in favor, motion carried.
Fireworks contract is good for 2012 and 2013. Board discussed how they would like to make fireworks more of a community event.

- **Membership, 2012 Drive**

NF Animal Clinic has been added as a new member since the last meeting. Total revenue from new memberships this year so far is \$1,925. Please be approaching businesses and if you need packets they are located on the table in the Chamber conference room.

Old Business:

- **Building Update**

Bill reported that the building is almost completed in the interior. Only finishing touches need to be done. The steps used by the downstairs renters have been reinforced by Kevin Brockway, exterior work to be done is- parking lot, side decks, rain garden. Will do geothermal this year also. Merging of downspouts with Alice Koempel's building needs to be revisited. Ryan has agreed to approach Alice again.

- **Northeast Iowa Regional Chamber—Spring Conference—April 20th from 6-8pm at Country Hills. Theme will be Best Practices with a “think tank” approach. Make plans to attend!**

- **2013 Dues, Budget, Building Rent, Contract for Services with FCED**

Board would like to consider raising rent by \$50/month for the upstairs renters. This would be effective January 1st. Further discussion will take place at future meetings to finalize details and to also consider all entities that rent Chamber space.

- **After Five—Date and Business**

Need a business to commit to this and get the ball rolling again.

- **New Board Members**

Still in need of three replacements!

New Business

- **Strategic WU Business/ED Meeting (MSWU, WUCD, WUCC)**

Bill stated that West Union Community Development would like to hold a Master Meeting to get all entities together to discuss how they can join together. CEDA was brought up as a possible option to assist in facilitating a Strategic Plan. Bill will talk to all entities that would need to be involved and get back to the board.

- **Presentations at Board Meetings**

Board is open to having presentations at meetings. Bill will determine who is most appropriate to attend.

- **Spring Cleaning (Basement & Office)**

Bridget will set a date and send it out to the Board. Bill & Bridget will make a detailed list of the cleaning duties that need to be completed to streamline efforts.

- **Open House**

Board agreed that the end of the summer would be best as the streetscape project should be done by that time.

With no further discussion, meeting was adjourned at 10:04am. Motion to adjourn by Jenni with a second from Brent.

Next Board Meeting: April 10, 2012.

Respectfully Submitted, Jenni Elsbernd, Secretary