

West Union Main Street & Chamber
Board Meeting - February 10, 2015
6:00 p.m. at the Chamber office

Present: Bob Sadler, Jane Blumhagen, Jon Biederman, Greg Ptacek, Karla Organist, Carolyn Havenstrite, Patti Heuton, Carolyn Weber, Amie Johansen, Jennifer Tobin, Allison Moschel(joined at 6:30pm).

Absent: Dick Woodard, John Pleggenkuhle, Gail Hackman, Melody Patrick, Amy Christianson

I. Amended agenda to add discussion on letter sent for Historic Registration to downtown businesses, and discuss Chamber building sewer issue. Motion by Jane, seconded by Patti. Motion carried.

II. Karla looked into by-laws and recommend talking to a professional on how to proceed, but feels the easiest to keep the 501C3 and current Main Street Agreement, would be to go under our Main Street, Inc. name and dissolve the Chamber, but do business as (DBA) whatever we choose as our new name. Karla volunteered to call Kremer & Kehe to discuss. Motion to table until then was made by Greg, seconded by Carolyn Weber. Motion carried.

III. After the slate of officers was nominated, Greg made a motion to approve nominations, Carolyn Weber seconded. Motion carried.

President: Bob Sadler

Vice President: Amie Johansen

Secretary: Patti Heuton

Treasurer: Karla Organist

IV. Concerning the new position of Combined Coordinator, Karla moved to hire Jennifer Tobin, current Chamber Director, full time at \$13 an hour the first six months, then \$14 an hour after that, with a start date of February 11, 2015. Will honor remainder of current Chamber vacation, and 1 week will be effective after 6 months of service for combined director. Carolyn Havenstrite seconded. Motion carried. Karla will prepare a contract for the files

Karla presented Main Street Iowa Program Director Roles and Responsibilities for everyone to review.

V. Chamber minutes were read. January Main Street Minutes had been sent via email to members. Jon Biederman moved that we accept the minutes of both, seconded by Greg. Motion carried.

VI. Treasurer's Report

Karla presented bills to be paid:

Alliant - \$20.81

Mediacom - \$52.45 (keep one more month, will change the phone message to direct callers to the Chamber office.

Pay Renaissance \$1926.97 – Façade Sub Recipient invoice missed in November. Will need to advance on the loan at Bank 1st.

Bank 1st office rent due for February – but Derek Heins advised the bank will probably waive for us.

Greg moved to accept the Treasurer's report, to pay the bills as presented. Jane seconded. Motion carried.

Chamber Budget Report

Jennifer presented the Chamber Budget report.

Greg moved to approve the Budget report. Carolyn Havenstrite seconded. Motion carried.

VII. Bob requested we buy a small plant for the new tenant who is moving in on Friday. The tenant is Amy Doepcke, a jailer at the Sheriff's dept. Jon Biederman moved that we buy a small plant up to \$25 from Old Mill Floral. Greg seconded. Motion carried. Jennifer will purchase the item & deliver to new tenant.

VIII. Discussed a \$20 scrip money donation for the Pheasants Forever banquet. Motion by Carolyn Havenstrite, seconded by Jon Biederman. Motion carried.

IX. Upcoming Training

A. February 19th Main Street training in Des Moines was discussed. Registration deadline has been extended to Feb 13. Jennifer Tobin, Patti Heuton, Amie Johansen, Bob Sadler, Carolyn Weber, Jane Blumhagen and possibly Carolyn Havenstrite will attend. Bob Sadler will drive. Meet at Chamber.

B. The upcoming Roger Brooks video scheduled for February 26th was discussed. Since the Business Improvement committee has not met and has not previewed the videos yet, it was decided that we should postpone this to March or later.

C. The March 9-11th Marshalltown training was discussed. It seems unlikely that anyone from West Union is able to go for the 3-day training. Dick Woodard checked with Main Street Iowa, and we can sub EntreFest, which he and Karla are signed up for.

X. The July 4th Celebration was discussed. Jennifer suggested some activities such as a Zip Line, Figure 8 Racing, and a Bouncy House. She will check on prices and availability and will get back to the promotions committee.

XI. Committee Reports were attached for each to review on their own. Jennifer mentioned adding a retail event similar to the Snowball Drop. More discussion later. Amie presented a list of the Committees and a brief description of each, as well as committee members on each. There is a definite need for more people on the committees so new members signed up. Greg moved that we table further discussion of committees until we have more planning in place, Karla seconded. Motion carried.

XII. We received a letter letting us know that our downtown district has applied to be on the National Historic Registry. Concerned business owners have asked if there will be stringent requirements for building & remodeling if we are approved. The letter states that it is by City Codes, not by Federal. It will, however, streamline grant funding and allow for tax credits in the future.

A. Gage & Gage came to look at an issue with the sewer in the Chamber building. The problem should be resolved with more water flow once the tenant moves in.

Greg Ptacek let us know that if we purchase anything online (if unable to purchase locally) through smile.amazon.com, that .5% will be donated to Main Street West Union IF you select that option.

Jennifer asked if we want to have the artist come back to do a painting for us as a fundraiser. A 16x20" print will sell for \$35. We need to sell 40 before we begin to make money. Board felt it was not a good fundraiser the last time and decided to decline.

Greg let us know that we will need to provide our own table centerpiece for the Main Street Iowa Awards banquet in May. Amie will let Derek Heins know of the May 1st date of the banquet.

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 10 at the new time of 6:45 AM.

Greg moved that we adjourn. Jon seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Submitted by Patti Heuton

16.5 volunteer hours logged