

## **Chamber of Commerce in Culver**

### **Board of Directors' Meeting – April 24, 2007**

The board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce in Culver met for their monthly meeting at the Culver Coffee Co. Mike Stallings, president, called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM with roll call of members. Present were: Stallings, Greg Fassett, vice-president, Scott Huberty, Dawn Minas, Ralph Winters, Rick Tompos, Dick Brantingham and Ben Schaller, treasurer. Also present: Bobbie Ruhnow, executive secretary.

The minutes of the March directors' meeting were approved on a motion by Tompos, seconded by Winters.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Schaller reported that \$8,000 had been received in dues, approximately \$2,000 less than anticipated at this time.

The invoice has been received for the Top Ten banquet. Schaller reported that the income received was less than anticipated plus the Maxinkuckee Bistro added the gratuity of \$420, which according to Minas, was supposed to be included in the \$21 per person cost. The discrepancy in income appeared to be the fact that the school increased the count by 30 (including 10 students and 10 teachers) but paid only for 33. Kiwanis and the Chamber fund the cost of the dinner for students and teachers that should have been \$420 plus the cost of the prizes given the students. Monetary sponsorships from Millers Merry Manor and Coca Cola of Plymouth in the amount of \$200 each and \$150 from Ancilla College have helped with the shortfall, Schaller noted.

#### **Membership Committee**

Fassett reported that the committee is working toward a hosting a reception at the end of May or first of June geared toward introducing the Chamber to potential members. Advancing Chamber membership as an "Investment in the Community", projects in the planning stages and completed will be highlighted. These would include Second Century Committee's plans, the Top Ten banquet, Street Banners along with plans to produce a "welcome package" to new businesses and residents. The committee is also working on a tri-fold highlighting the community's assets.

Fassett will contact Mystic Hills regarding a date for the reception.

A list of unpaid members was distributed and each director will contact an unpaid member to encourage dues transmittal. Unpaid members will be deleted from the web site in the near future.

#### **Second Century Committee**

Brantingham reported on a recent meeting of the SCC steering committee. The SCC is partnering with Culver's Redevelopment Committee to develop a "West Jefferson St." Gateway. Lehman and Lehman, Architects are developing a conceptual design plan.

A dues letter has been sent to all current SCC members and was expanded to include all Chamber members.

The first meeting of the general membership is scheduled for May 22 at the Edgewater Grill at noon. All subsequent meetings will be held at this location. Stallings said that an ad hoc committee headed by Jim Peterson, Antiquarian Society chairman, has been formed. The committee, whose purpose is to bring back the tranquility of Culver, wishes to discuss their ideas with the Chamber board. Directors agreed to hear a 20 minute presentation at the May board meeting.

Brantingham noted that the proposed committee's goals could not be incorporated under the Second Century Committee's charter and by-laws.

#### **Retail Merchants Assoc.**

Minas will discuss revitalizing the RMA with Susie Mahler and Pam Fisher, but it appears the group has disbanded due to lack of participation. The Chamber has assumed the newsletter duties. Perimeter lighting along with uniform street lighting plans are being discussed within the parameters of the SCC.

#### **Government Relations**

Stallings announced that he and Brantingham would attend the town council meeting. Both are members of the Culver Tree Commission that recently planted over 40 trees in the terraces of Culver homeowners.

#### **Other Business**

Schaller talked with Dr. Bailey regarding the Farmers' Market loading and unloading issue. Dr. Bailey's concern is that the lot not be used to park the heavy trucks and was assured that only brief loading and unloading of items would be done on the lot.

Destination Culver is in the process of being completed, Ruhnow said. She noted the importance of mailing the 2,000 plus issues before the postage increase. The board approved free articles for Diva and Gladies in lieu of flowers. Both businesses were very pleased at the offer, Ruhnow said.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 AM.

Bobetta Ruhnow  
Executive Secretary