

Chamber of Commerce in Culver
Minutes – Board of Directors – June 26, 2007

The board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce in Culver met with Mike Stallings, president, Greg Fassett, 1st vice president, Dick Brantingham, Judi Dodge, Rick Tompos, Ben Schaller, treasurer and Dawn Minas in attendance. Directors Ralph Winters, Scott Huberty and Julie VandeWater Bailey were absent. Also present was Bobbie Ruhnow, executive secretary.

Stallings asked for approval of the May minutes. On a motion by Tompos, seconded by Fassett, the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Schaller presented budget anticipations for 2007 opposed to actual receipts and disbursements. To date, dues receipts are approximately \$1,000 below the estimate of \$10,300 with actual amount at \$9,235. Banner sales have not met projections and the cost of the Top Ten Dinner exceeded the \$1,500 projected with a \$2,666 cost. Part of the cost was offset by contributions from Millers' Merry Manor - \$200. Coca Cola of Plymouth - \$200 and Ancilla College - \$100. Paid dinners equaled \$1,535. Cost of the gifts to seniors was \$232.90. Kiwanis of Culver have agreed to split the difference, as they are co-sponsors of the event.

The budget is still not in deficit with a balance of \$874, Schaller reported. The MCCF fund balance remains intact at \$34,400 and the interest gained is approximately \$2,000.

In connection with the report, fundraising was discussed. It was agreed that banner sales needed to be promoted as a revenue source. Discussion of selling banners at the information booth at Lake Fest was held. Tompos will ask the Lake Fest director if this is feasible and the board agreed to sell banners for \$125 with \$20 going to the Lake Fest. The approval was given on a motion by Dodge seconded by Fassett.

Dodge discussed a possible moneymaking project. She suggested flat frames to assemble with a "Visions of Culver" motif. She will find a local artist to produce a sample and Stallings agreed to make two frames (2 x 3 and 8 x 11) for the sample product.

Old Business

Stallings reported that Ed Curtis, who is chairman of a group of interested parties in zoning changes, would be in Culver in July. Stallings, Fassett and Brantingham will meet with Curtis for an informal lunch to determine if this is a project suitable for Chamber participation.

Information on a Downtown Enhancement grant was received from the Culver town manager. The Second Century Committee was given the information for follow-up. Brantingham noted a grant would pay for engineering costs for a proposed downtown lighting project Second Century is pursuing. Total project cost is estimated at \$300,000.

New Business

Dodge reported that the Welcome to Culver sign at 10 & 17 is in need of lawn maintenance.¹ Stalling will ask one of his lawn maintenance personnel to cut weeds at the four Welcome to Culver signs. Brantingham will discuss an Adopt-A-Sign program at the Second Century Committee's meeting in July. Information will also be put in the Culver Citizen regarding the maintenance.

The Second Century Committee needs attendance at their meetings, Brantingham reported. Ruhnow will send out postcards advising of the July 9 meeting at the Edgewater Grille to request interested persons attend.

The Chamber has been invited to participate at a Grand Opening event on June 30th at the Diva. The Culver town council president, Ed Pinder, Sr. will also be present. Tompos will prepare nametags, indicating representatives of the Chamber. Any business wishing to have a grand opening ceremony should contact the office. Ruhnow will notify board members.

A possible wine/cheese event to be held at the Uptown Cinema was discussed. The new owner of the business has made extensive improvements and it is hoped he will be interested in a Chamber membership.

There will be no July dinner meeting. Plans for a Ledbetter cruise are on hold until arrangements can be made with the Academies, Minas reported.

A thank you letter from the Council of Churches for a donation to the Meals on Wheels program was read. The donation was made to honor the service of Judi Dodge in her two-year stint as Chamber president. A request from the LMEC for a donation was read. Individual members are urged to make a suitable donation to this worthwhile environmental program.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 AM.

Bobbie Ruhnow
Executive Secretary

¹ The Town of Culver will landscape and maintain the limestone sign at 10 & 17 in agreement that it is a municipal sign.