

Chamber of Commerce in Culver

Minutes August 26, 2008

The board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce in Culver met at the Culver Coffee Company with the following in attendance: Mike Stallings, Greg Fassett, Dick Brantingham, Ralph Winters, Ben Schaller, Scott Huberty, Dawn Minas and Rick Tompos. Bobbie Ruhnow, secretary, was also present.

Stallings, president, opened the meeting at 7:30 AM and asked for the approval of the minutes of the July 29, 2008 meeting. They were approved unanimously on a motion by Brantingham/Winters.

Treasurer's Report

Schaller advised that receipts to date were \$12,124 with disbursements of \$11,141 giving a surplus of \$983. Budgeted for the calendar year is projected at \$18,038 with expenses totaling \$12,025 that would give excess at year's end of \$6,013. There has been no report from MCCF for interest received on investment.

A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Winters seconded by Tompos and approved unanimously.

In line with the treasurer's report, Stallings said that there was no number available on the amount of tickets sold by Chamber members to date for the joint raffle with Kiwanis. The July report was that approximately 334 tickets by the Chamber. However, tickets are continuing to be sold until the final date of the raffle drawing, August 31 at the Film Festival. A final accounting of profit to the Chamber will be made at that time.

The suggestion was made that if a similar raffle is held next year with two drawings, any ticket sold after the first drawing should be at half-price due to only having once chance.

Second Century Committee

Tompos reported that the joint meeting, August 13, of SCC and Lions was well attended. A slate of officers for 2009 was proposed and accepted. The slate for the Steering Committee for 2009 will be Dick Brantingham, Tom Kearns, Patty Stallings, Ginny Bess Munroe, Rick Tompos, Rita Mason and Jim Weirick. A meeting of old and new Steering Committee members will be held September 9 at the Culver Coffee Co.

Tompos, treasurer of SCC, reported that approximately 35 dues have been received.

There will be a joint meeting of SCC and Chamber of Commerce in Culver on October 7, at the Culver Academies' Math and Science Bldg.

Other Business

Stallings reported that ribbon-cutting ceremonies were conducted at the new Collins Building, Brockey Insurance Agency, Gladie's Deli and the JMS office on Saturday, August 16, in conjunction with Sidewalk Sales. Jeff Kenney, Citizen editor, will feature each business with photos.

It was agreed that a sign should be posted at the Farmers' Market noting that the Chamber of Commerce in Culver sponsored it.

Ruhnow told directors that information from the Culver Plan Commission meeting was the possibility that CVS was interested in purchasing the Farmers' Market site and adjacent residence. This would mean a new location for the market for next year.

The dissatisfaction of a local merchant over lack of recognition for donations to a recent Taste of Culver festival was discussed. It was inferred to Library Board members by the librarian that no accounting of funds received could be given until all the bills were in from participating restaurants. It would appear that this is the reason given for lack of accounting for 2006, 2007 and 2008. Café Max has announced that they will no longer participate in the event. The restaurant donated 100 percent of workers and food and has received no credit. Discussion of how the Chamber could better recognize the donations and volunteerism of its' members was held.

Winters, a town council member, said that the council was having a discussion of not hiring a town manager to replace Sean McDermott. Winters, a member of the original 1998 charrette team, said he was well aware that the Chamber and Second Century was a prime motivator in Culver's decision to hire a town manager. This was a result of public input at the time of the charrette. Winters said he would appreciate the input of the Culver Chamber. A suggestion that perhaps a survey letter could be sent, similar to one circulated at the time of the charrette to determine if the position should be continued.

A recent preliminary proposal for a planned unit development (Maxinkuckee Village) to the Culver Plan Commission was discussed. Stallings attended as representative of the Chamber of Commerce in Culver. While agreeing that the development could be a plus to Culver business economics, directors agreed that the issue of impact fees should be thoroughly discussed and a decision based on how it would best benefit the town considered. The PUD will, if approved by the Plan Commission and town council, be placed adjacent to the Culver Marina that is within the two-mile jurisdictional area.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 AM. Dinner meeting is scheduled for September 2, at Edgewater Grill with Marlene Mahler, township trustee, as speaker.

Bobetta Ruhnow
Executive Secretary