

Chamber of Commerce in Culver

Board of Directors' Meeting August 31, 2010

The board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce in Culver met for their monthly meeting at the Culver Coffee Company with Greg Fassett, president, Dawn Minas Brockey, vice-president, Dick Brantingham, Tony Sellers, Mike Stallings, and Scott Huberty present. Bobbie Ruhnow was also in attendance. Directors, Ron May, Ralph Winters, Ben Schaller and Rick Tompos were absent.

Fassett opened the meeting at 7:30 AM. Brockey noted that she had received several calls regarding Culver's participation in discussions regarding a county-wide Chamber of Commerce. Directors referred to the July board meeting when the information was brought to their attention, they felt there was no advantage to Culver at this time, to a county-wide organization. After further discussion of the issue, a motion was made by Stallings seconded by Huberty that after due consideration, an intelligent and just decision was made that for now, it is not in the best interest of the Chamber of Commerce in Culver to go county wide. However, Fassett and Brockey will attend the next joint meeting to listen to the proposal and present our position.

Main Street Program

Following up a discussion with Michael Doss, town manager, at the July board meeting, Fassett and Stallings visited Logansport to discuss their Main Street Program and its implementation. They met with Becky Harris and Brian Schaffer. Logansport's Main Street program is called Logan's Landing and emphasis has been on revitalizing the downtown area. They received an initial funding of \$75,000 composed of 1/3 CETA, 1/3 grant money and 1/3 community involvement that has been used toward a Farmers' Market, special events, landscaping, and promotional activities. They have recently received a \$350,000 grant for Historic Renovation. There is one full-time staff member and the Main Street program has their own board. There can be no paid memberships in the Main Street program and a special non-profit status must be secured. Fassett and Stallings noted they would check with Tompos to ascertain what steps would need to be taken to secure this exemption.

On September 28, at the regular board of directors' meeting, Shae Kmicikewyz, program director, will be present to discuss the organizational procedures necessary to achieve Main Street status. Fassett asked that all board members plan to attend this important meeting.

The role of Culver's Second Century Committee in implementing the program was discussed. It may be possible for SCC to morph into the board which could be in charge. The paid membership in SCC would have to be discontinued and the tax status investigated, but directors stated the SCC, as a long range planning committee, would be an ideal instrument to use. Andrea Cook, a member of the Culver Economic Development Committee, will be asked to attend Kmicikewyz's presentation.

Other Business

Dick Swennumson, Kiwanis Club, asked that we announce that Jackie Walorski, Republican candidate for U.S. House of Representatives, will attend the Kiwanis Club luncheon on October 21. This information will be posted on our web site as soon as the date is confirmed.

Brantingham, chairman of SCC, noted that the steering committee meets September 7th and will determine if a general meeting of the group will be scheduled for September 28th.

A joint dinner meeting with SCC and Culver Chamber members will be scheduled for October. The place to be determined.

The annual awards committee will be composed of Dick Brantingham, Mike Stallings and Rick Tompos. Brantingham has suggested we include past awardees, Kevin Berger and Bob Kline.

The nominating committee will be composed of Dawn Minas Brockey, Mike Stallings and Dick Brantingham. Names will be presented for approval at the November dinner meeting as required in the by-laws.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM. Fassett reminded members of the dinner meeting to be held at City Diner, September 7th. Terri Grabill, Mike Woolfington, MCCVB, Barb Linhart, Farmers' Market will be present and Marlene Mahler, Union Township Trustee, has asked for a few moments to thank the Chamber for their support throughout her terms of office.

Bobbie Ruhnnow
Secretary