

Fremont County Chamber of Commerce

Minutes

June 15, 2009

The Sidney Chamber Commerce met on June 15, 2009 at the community room at 6:00 p.m. There was an excellent meal served by members of the Cowboy Church.

Members present were: Barb & Roger Kissel, Crain & Anne Eberly, Vickie Smith, Howard Nelson, Randy and Darla Moreland, Richard Moreland, Randy & Jackie Monroe, Rev. Roger Kissel, Gregg and Lynda Cruickshank, Carol Rasmussen, Edna & Gene Eaton, Sharon Yahnke and Mike Ross.

Guests: Liz Tedder, Casey Cruickshank and Rhonda Sheldon from the High School, Carol Simpson, Caroline Hopkins, Sharon Barrett, Dick & Jane McClure.

Mike Ross called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m...

Approval of the Agenda:

I. Secretary Report Copies of the May minutes were handed out

II. Treasurer's Report Bank accounts: FCB Checking: \$380.15, FCB Savings: \$1,087.15; Great Western Checking \$6081.49 and Great Western Certificate of Deposit \$3,243.27 which matures on May of 2009. Petty Cash \$42.31.

Other bank accounts in the name of the Chamber: Boy Scout Troop #77: \$763.22. The Cub Scout funds are \$1,610.

Bills paid: Chamber Bucks from: Sidney Foods \$125, Penn Drug \$50, Casey's \$105, Whips \$100. Stanley Welding for making and painting the Welcome signs. \$1197.42

Income: Garage Sale maps \$70, Flea Market Contracts \$150, Chamber Bucks sold - \$50 to IWCC

Outstanding Commitments: Harlem Ambassador Contract: \$3000, Chamber Bucks \$1160, Matching Funds for the sign project \$2000, Chamber Bucks \$570, First Express Insurance \$707 on hold.

Motion by Rev. Kissel, 2nd by Randy Monroe to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion passed.

Guests: Rhonda Sheldon and Liz Tedder handed out flyers for a fun run to be held Rodeo weekend. The Student Council is raising money for a walking/bike trail to be built out to the high school so students don't have to drive and to give residents an exercise trail for walking or biking. The student council will present the project to the city council and ask them to help with the planning and building of the community project.

III. Correspondence

None

IV. Old Business:

- a. **Harlem Ambassadors** – Mike Ross and Lynda Cruickshank have a letter of commitment from the Farragut School Administrator about the September 24th date. A \$500 deposit has been paid, Total Cost: \$3,500 plus the meal following the game, lodging within 20 miles? Advertising to start in June. Cruickshank is contacting people about teams.
- b. **Auto Blast:** Account has been set up for automatic meeting notices and reminders via the phone. Members asked that reminders be several days before the meeting and also the day of the meeting if possible. Please continue to encourage participation at the meetings! Get your phone # to Jackie!

- c. **Flea Market:** Jackie and Randy Monroe reported that participation is up 500% over last year. There will be 2 food vendors but their hours of serving food will extend past the regular times posted at current restaurant establishments. Randy to meet with the City Council and iron out a few more details before the Rodeo
- d. **Chamber Name Change:** Final Name change is “Fremont County Chamber of Commerce”. Tracy needs to start brochures now. Discuss future growth. Need to invite businesses from Farragut, Riverton, and Hamburg. They have already contacted Shenandoah. The new website is www.fremontcountychamber.com
- e. **Western Iowa Tourism Grant for Welcome Signs:** Two signs are now up. One on the south and the north ends. Welcome Sign committee: Gene & Edna Eaton and Sharon Yahnke. Reported that Larry Greedy and Brian Stanley all helped to put the sign up at a total cost of \$3644 for both signs. The installation bill is not in yet. The grant from WIT is for \$2000 and FREDCO contributed \$500. Motion by Sharon Yahnke and 2nd by Randy Monroe to pay Gene Kirk bill for \$1822. Motion passed. **Chamber Thanks to: Lonnie Houchin and Harold Snyder for letting us put the signs on their property. Recognition to Gene & Edna Eaton for getting this project done.**
- f. **E-Powerment Initiative from IWCC.** Met this week with Julie Mierau to review survey results and action plans. Winner of Chamber Bucks was Susie Moores. Next steps: Starting more classes and having outsiders review county signage and ease of locating things in our communities.
- g. **Golf Tournament -** Organization by Vickie Smith and Teresa Hardy. Date: September 26th. Four person scramble, \$140 per team, \$35 per person. There was some discussion about where Chamber should have the proceeds go.
- h. **Clean Up Days:** Many thanks to Donnie and Debbie Benedict and Charlie Morgan for helping with trailers to make the clean up a success. Discussed involving more volunteers again next time. Randy Monroe moved and Roger Kissel 2nd that we should give Charlie Morgan \$25 in Chamber Bucks for his gas. Motion passed. Discussed promoting this as a drop and swap. There are many items that others could actually fix and put to use.
- i. **City Wide Garage Sale:** Lots of out of town traffic with Saddle Club roping event in town that weekend. Advertisements in 4 newspapers and on two radio stations. Randy Monroe suggested moving it to Rodeo weekend.
- j. **Circus May 5th -** Follow up. Need to thank Mike Nenneman for moving his cattle so that we could use the fairgrounds.

New Business:

- a. **Planters around the square:** At the April meeting the board approved \$75 collected for Christmas trees that was not spent would be used on the planters. Faith in Action volunteered to plant the planters. Due to a lack of communication, they purchased bedding material in the amount of \$330 assuming that the chamber was collecting \$15 per planter again. Much discussion followed. Next year the executive committee needs to set a budget for this or plan to ask everyone to plant their own again. Motion by Howard Nelson, second by Gene Eaton to pay the expenses of Faith in Action for planting all of the planters and maintaining them.
- b. **Rodeo Parade :** Entries will be collected by Julie Diebelka at First Community Bank. Jason Foster at Great Western Bank will again help with the numbers and lineup. There will be a special Rodeo Parade planning meeting to get things moving. Need to contact the High School Band instructor to help us.
- c. **Promotions** Who likes to ride in a parade? We have been invited to ride in the Riverton Days and at Tabor. We don't have a float. Maybe a car with magnetic signs?

Reminder committees: (please feel free to let Mike Ross know if you could to help with any of these committees:

County-wide Membership promotion: Cara Morgan, Mike Ross, Brian Whipple and Jackie Monroe.

Calendar: Tracy Lovett, Justin Travis, Amy Johnson, Ross and Randy Moreland
Flea Markets: Randy and Jackie Monroe
Scavenger Hunt: Tracy Lovett, Mike Ross
Special Events: (i.e. Harlem Ambassadors) Lynda Cruickshank, Mike Ross
Fair Breakfast: Brian Whipple & Farm Bureau
Christmas Santa: Sidney Foods, Roger Kissel, Tracy & Mike Lovett
Marketing & Webpage: Mike Ross, Tracy Lovett, Randy Moreland, Justin Travis
Easter egg Hunt: Kim Reed & Judy Braunschweig, Sidney Foods
Flower Planter Project: Faith In Action volunteers.
Welcome Signs: Eaton, Yahnke
Chili Cook-off: Brian Whipple, Randy Moreland, The Ambassador
Rodeo Parade: Mike Ross, Randy Moreland, Julie Diebelka, Jason Foster
Golf Tournament: Albert Allen & Teresa Hardy, of the Ambassador will coordinate.
E-Powerment: Entrepreneurship project with Iowa Western Community college:
Mike Ross, Jackie & Randy Monroe, Rev. Kissel, Lynda Cruickshank

VI Reports and Activities

Rodeo Museum: Planning a grand opening in July. Looking for financial donors. Contact Sharon Barrett.

Gathering Place: Funny Money will be running in June. Need to have a good attendance.

Window Clings – For new name we will look into clings to replace the plastic signs.

Faith In Action - For businesses going through hard times. We should ask for funding through FREDCO to help them out with a loan. Wanting to see some micro loans for businesses who belong to the chamber.

Business Promotions: Lynda Cruickshank shared handouts about Waddell & Reed which had been rated by Barron's as the Number One Family of funds over a 5 yr period. Lipper Inc also ranked their family of funds as the number one family of funds in the small firm category.

VII. Adjournment: Motion by Randy Monroe and 2nd by Roger Kissel to adjourn. Motion passed

Respectfully submitted,
Lynda Cruickshank, Secretary

Chamber Calendar: <http://www.FremontCountyChamber.com/>

July 20 Meeting at Whips at noon

August – No coffee scheduled