

Minutes
Albany Area Chamber of Commerce
General Membership Meeting
August 17, 2011
12:00 p.m. @ Grace Alive! Church

Members present: Kathleen Magel, Evelyn Budde, Gaylene Hanson, Jeannie White, Rebecca Binek, Ross Voit, Tom Schneider, Nancy Wieling, Janine Kutter, Pam Williquette, Joe Williquette, Ken Eickhoff, Mary Richter, Dr. Nate Brever, Joel Schneider, Jim Kastanek, Steve Dooley and Jill Schultz.

Guests: Cindy Nienaber and Karen Wensmann

Meeting called to order by Chamber President, Kathleen Magel @ 12:10 p.m.

Introductions were made.

The general membership reviewed the minutes from the July 20th meeting. No changes or corrections made. Motion to approve the minutes made by Mary Richter and seconded by Tom Schneider.

Treasurer report was available for membership to review.

No changes or corrections made to the Treasurers report. Motion to approve the treasurer report made by Jeannie White seconded by Joe Williquette.

Albany Buck report will be available at next month's meeting.

Heritage Day, "Life's a Circus" was a success considering the rain at the start of the parade. The streets were still full of spectators and the crowd continued to stay in town to enjoy the music by Kentucky Thunder and watch the fireworks.

The 5K Run/Walk had their largest registration at 210 runners. Four year reigning champ of the Business Water Ball Fight, Stueve's Outlaws, were defeated by Albany Recycling Center. Parade winners for best use of theme were: 1st - Lake County Veterinary Service; 2nd - Albany Chrysler Center; 3rd - The Alzheimer's Association.

The Heritage Day Committee will have their final wrap up meeting on August 25th. There will be more to report on changes and suggestions for next year at next month's general membership meeting.

Evelyn Budde, Mother of Mercy Campus of Care reported on the Tri-Cap bus. The Tri-Cap bus may not continue service in Albany in 2012. Funding for the bus service has increased to \$10,000 for part time and

\$20,000 for full time. There may be a possibility of sharing a day of bus service with Sauk Centre, but ride time in Albany would be limited. Ms. Budde will keep the chamber membership informed on any changes or developments.

Albany Area Schools New Faculty luncheon is next week. If any business would like to include something in a "goodie" bag, please have it at the school's district office by August 22nd. There will be 10 to 15 "goodie" bags made.

Volunteers are needed to be on the Santa Day Committee. Santa Day is not until December; typically the first early dismissal Friday on the school's calendar. There are a few items that need to be addressed soon. A majority of the communication will happen through email with meetings to follow at a later date. Volunteering to be on the committee were Janine Kutter, Jeannie White and Kathleen Magel. Anyone else interested in being on the committee should contact the chamber office.

There will be a chamber board member position open on January 1st, 2012. Mary Sauerer's term will be fulfilled. The chamber board typically only meets once to twice a year. The board term is 5 years. Please contact the chamber office or any board member if you are interested.

Tom Schneider, City of Albany; reported on the progress of the Main Street renovation project. The Main Street Committee will be meeting on August 25th at 7PM. Items up for discussion are: sidewalks and crosswalks, detours, construction phases and a communication brochure for businesses and residents. MN DOT has verbally committed additional funding for the project which the City is awaiting a letter of confirmation. Mr. Schneider also noted that XCEL Energy submitted a cost estimate for underground electric and other miscellaneous work to be \$241,000. This does not include the ornamental poles/fixtures and private service connections for those businesses that will have to have their services relocated to the rear alley. Mr. Schneider noted that XCEL will begin their electrical work in the fall of 2012. Mr. Kastanek, a committee member, informed the Chamber that it is in the best interest not to install any colored or stamped concrete having spoken to other cities that have experienced problems with the integrity of the concrete failing shortly after installation.

Steve Dooley, Albany Area Schools, informed membership in attendance of several issues the school is facing due to funding. One of the most important is a school levy going out to voters. The school board will make the decision for the levy to go out to voters at tonight's school board meeting.

Joe Williquette is involved in a new business, level ground concrete leveling. This process allows curb and gutters to be repaired without grinding or busting up the concrete. It also is very cost effective versus replacing a concrete slab.

Evelyn Budde mentioned that it was nice the chamber honored the Martha Schiffler Family at the Chamber Annual Banquet this past January. Martha Schiffler passed away last week.

Prize drawing winner was Kathleen Magel.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, September 21, 2011 at Albany Bowling Center.

Thank you to Twin Pines Catering for providing the wonderful lunch.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Fish, Chamber Executive Secretary