

Minutes
Albany Area Chamber of Commerce
General Membership Meeting
March, 17th, 2010
12:00 Noon @ Albany City Hall

Members Present: Melissa Gerads, Lynn Jenc, Tiffany Rodenwald, Berni Orbeck, Janine Kutter, Paul Solsrud, James Stueve, Eric Medelberg, James Muellenbach, Nick Brandner, Lisa Kramer-Beuning, Dean Goebel, Kari Eiden and Evelyn Budde.

Meeting called to order by Chamber president, Melissa Gerads at 12:00PM. Mrs. Gerads welcomed members in attendance.

The General Membership reviewed the minutes from the February 17th meeting. No changes or corrections made. Motion to approve the minutes made by Janine Kutter and seconded by Evelyn Budde. Minutes will stand as written.

Treasurer report was presented by Treasurer, Paul Solsrud. All activity was standard for the month and dues revenue is right on track.

The Chamber has a 12 month CD in the amount of \$4,132.98 with Central MN Federal Credit Union that will mature on April 4, 2010.

A motion was made by Janine Kutter and seconded by Bernie Orbeck to have Treasurer Paul Solsrud use his discretion for renewal. No changes or corrections made to the Treasurer Report.

Albany Buck Report was available for review. Balance in the account is \$3,524.95. Kraft Foods just purchased another \$300 in Albany Bucks this morning.

The advertising inserts that were placed in the Stearns Morrison Enterprise seemed to generate more sales in Albany Bucks. The Avon Chamber is not interested in splitting the cost of a spring flyer.

A chamber member suggested offering some sort of an incentive that may entice more people to shop locally instead of the Albany Buck just being a dollar for dollar transaction. The advertising the chamber is doing now is increasing Albany Buck activity but could we do more?

There was much discussion on this topic; letting the business decide if they want to offer a discount to someone using Albany Bucks and list that business on our advertisements, offering an incentive for those that purchase Albany Bucks and just to keep doing what we are doing now in promoting them which seems to be working.

It was determined that the main goal is to get the Albany Bucks in the consumers' hands and a committee should be formed to discuss these options and look into it further. Volunteering to be on the committee were Melissa Gerads, Paul Solsrud, Dean Goebel, Nick Brandner and James Muellenbach. The committee will present their information and options at the next General Membership Meeting.

Albany Heritage Day is July 31, 2010. The first Heritage Day Committee Meeting will take place April 29th at 6:30PM. If you have a theme suggestion or any other idea for Heritage Day, contact the Chamber office.

“*Steel Blue*” is the band that has been booked for Heritage Day entertainment from 8:30 to 12:30pm. A “*Battle of the Bands*” will take place from 2:30 to 5:30pm.

Lisa Kramer-Beuning, Albany Chrysler Center: The Annual Car Show that typically is held the same day as Heritage Day is scheduled for the Friday before, July 30th. This will be a great kick off to Heritage Day and also does not conflict with the Cold Spring Car Show which is July 31st. Over 350+ people are expected to attend.

There is space available for concessions on the grounds with electricity as an option. If any local business or organization is interested in having a concession stand at the car show, please call Lisa Kramer-Beuning at Albany Chrysler (320) 845-2801. Any proceeds the stand makes is solely that business’s or organization’s money.

For the past several years, the Albany Chamber of Commerce has donated \$250 to the Albany Senior Post Graduation Party. This \$250 was unintentionally left out of the 2010 chamber budget.

After discussion with membership in attendance, it was decided to take the \$250 out of the Albany Buck account and donate to the post grad party in Albany Bucks. Motion to approve this transaction made by James Stueve and seconded by Dean Goebel.

The Albany Chamber of Commerce welcomes two new members, Thelen Service Center Inc. and Albany Auto Center Inc.

Chamber “*Business after Hours*” on Wednesday, April 7th from 5 to 7PM. Offering free beer, wine and appetizers; hosted by Sean Artley, Paul’s Par-A-Dice.

Lynn Jenc, Albany Area Community Education/ Albany Area Schools: The “*Wizard of Oz*” will be on stage next weekend.

Nearly 60 local students in grades 1-12 team up with two professional actors next weekend to present Prairie Fire Children’s Theatre’s original musical version of the classic tale, “*Wizard of Oz*”.

Performances are slated for Friday, March 26th at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 27th at 1:00 p.m. at Albany Elementary School.

Featuring script & music by Daniel Nordquist and costume & set design by Deborah Pick, Prairie Fire Children’s Theater continues the tradition of presenting classic tales as you’ve never seen done before.

Based on L. Frank Baum’s classic American fairy tale, Prairie Fire’s version is set in contemporary America at the beginning and it is from there that the tornado takes Dorothy over the rainbow to Oz.

Tickets are FREE, although free will offerings will be graciously accepted at the door.

This Prairie Fire Children’s Theatre residency is being sponsored by Albany Area Community Education.

The Jaycee Wrestling Tournament will be held at Albany High School on Saturday, March 27th. This event will bring over 450 people to the City of Albany.

James Stueve, Albany Police Department: The “*Mock Crash*” will be held on April 14th for grades 9-12. Several informational discussions and activities will take place; rollover simulator, discussion on driving and distractions and the mock crash. Police Departments, Fire Departments and Rescue Teams from Albany, Avon and Stearns County will all be involved along with Miller-Carlin Funeral Home.

Any business that would like to support this event should contact the Albany Police Department.

Janine Kutter, Bueckers City Sanitation: The City Wide Cleanup will be held on Saturday, May 22nd from 9AM to 12PM in the Albany City Hall parking lot. The cleanup will take place in all three cities (Albany, Avon, Melrose) after all city wide garage sales are over. Most items can be dropped off for \$5 - \$15.

Seven Dolors & Our Savior’s Church Lenten Musical Concert is on March 21, at 2PM.

Albany City Wide Garage Sales are being held on May 15th, organized by the Albany Women of Today.

The following meetings have been set by the City of Albany:

City’s Planning Commission for open discussion regarding the proposed updates to the City of Albany’s Zoning Ordinances; March 30 at 6:30 PM at City Hall Council Chambers.

A community discussion of visions and actions to reinvigorate North Lake. Rediscover North Lake Public Input Meeting, Wednesday, March 31 at 7PM at Albany City Hall.

Prize drawing was won by Lynn Jenc.

Melissa Gerads announced the next Chamber General Membership Meeting which is Wednesday, April 21st, 2010 at NOON at Albany Bowling Center.

Respectively submitted,
Kim Fish, Executive Secretary