

Minutes  
Albany Area Chamber of Commerce  
General Membership Meeting  
May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
12:00 Noon @ Hillcrest Family Restaurant

Members Present: Dean Goebel, Jeannie White, Janine Kutter, James Stueve, Mary Sauerer, Kathleen Magel, Nicole Severson, Tom Schneider, Renee Thelen, Tim Jopp, Laura Reitmeier, Evelyn Budde, Kris Strobel, Diane Haskamp, John Liestman, Randy Rothstein, Paul Solsrud, Kari Eiden, Lynn Jenc, Dave Mareck and Scott Thielman.

Meeting called to order by Chamber Board Member, Dean Goebel at 12:00PM.

The General Membership reviewed the minutes from the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. No changes or corrections made. Motion to approve the minutes made by Mary Sauerer 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.

Miscellaneous income of \$20.00 reflects the sale of Heritage Day mugs. Billboard advertising expenses have been split into two expenses; one for Franklin Outdoor and the other for Lamar. The Lamar contract will expire in June.

No changes or corrections made to the Treasurer Report. Motion to approve Treasurer Report made by Renee Thelen and seconded by Janine Kutter. Treasurer Report will stand as written.

Albany Buck Report was available for review. Balance in the account is \$4,182.51. The Albany Buck Mother's Day promo (purchase \$50 in Albany Bucks get \$5 free) generated sales of \$1,460.00 and \$115.00 given away. The \$115.00 given away is very close to the Albany Buck breakage point of 10% that are not redeemed.

The Mother's Day promo was advertised in the Stearns Morrison Enterprise and the Promo Pak. It was discussed & decided that we will do this promo again some time this year.

Tom Schneider, City of Albany: Tri-CAP Transit has been working with Mother of Mercy to create a public transit program for the City of Albany. This program would benefit the Mother of Mercy residents and would also be available for all city residents. The initial service would be one day per week for up to eight hours and would utilize a public transit bus, dispatching and CDL driver furnished by Tri-Cap. Cost to ride the bus is a \$1.25 per pickup.

Tri-Cap would promote their transportation by offering 2 weeks of free rides and other advertising to let all residents know that this service is open to the public.

To defray the cost of providing the service they are asking for \$1,200 a year. The Albany Lions have agreed to donate \$600.

Melrose is currently utilizing Tri-Cap services with great success. After much discussion, the general consensus of membership in attendance was that it would be

beneficial to residents and businesses to have public transit available in the City of Albany.

It was suggested that the Chamber take \$600 of a maturing \$4,002.76 CD with Stearns Bank and donate the additional \$600 needed to bring Tri-Cap to the City of Albany. Motion to approve a \$600 donation to Tri-Cap made by Janine Kutter and seconded by Kari Eiden. All in favor and none opposed; motion carried.

Kris Strobel, Mother of Mercy Campus of Care, addressed the cost issue of residents riding the bus. Right now the residents ride the Mother of Mercy bus for free. Annual cost of transportation for the residents is \$500. Mother of Mercy does not want their residents to lose their capability to ride because they cannot afford it and are looking for funds to offset the \$500.

It was the general consensus of the membership in attendance that it would be a good idea for Mother of Mercy to approach individual businesses and family members for donations to purchase bus tokens for the residents.

The Albany Chamber of Commerce Board, along with Scott Weishair of Weishair Custom Software, met in April and discussed options on updating and overhauling the Chamber website. The Board looked at several websites and gave Mr. Weishair a list of things to be placed on the website. Mr. Weishair gave the Chamber an estimate of \$1,000. Maintenance on the website is \$30 per hour.

This includes the following:

- Main page with scrolling photo block (couple styles available)
- Ads on front page - static or rotating
- Welcome message, Why join PDF to download
- Meetings page - list of upcoming meeting times and places
- List of meeting minutes in PDF format - 12 months worth
- Events page - List of events by month; event would be downloadable PDF
- Newsletter page - list of monthly newsletters in PDF format
- Business Directory - member list by categories and also alphabetic order
- Chamber page - list of officers, Why Join information, link to PDF signup form or application
- Contact us - Address, email, phone, map, etc. - possibly email form

The general consensus of the membership in attendance was that the website does need to be updated and that \$1,000 is a reasonable fee. It was suggested that the Chamber sign a contract with Weishair Custom Software for accountability purposes and also define any additional charges there may be.

A motion was made by Mary Sauerer to use \$1,000 of the same maturing CD covering the Tri-Cap cost for the website and seconded by Laura Reitmeier. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

The Central Minnesota Chapter of SCORE “Counselors to America’s Small Business” is part of a national nonprofit association dedicated to entrepreneur education and the formation, growth and success of the nation’s small business.

SCORE provides free and confidential business counseling tailored to meet the needs of your small business and your personal objectives. SCORE also offers workshops, for a modest fee, for both start-up entrepreneurs and in-business small business owners.

SCORE assists people in starting a new business and by providing counseling to existing small and mid-sized business owners.

Don Schiffler, SCORE Chapter Chair, will be doing a presentation at the June 16<sup>th</sup> Chamber General Membership Meeting. Spread the word and invite fellow co-workers to attend.

Flower pots will be placed on Main Street sometime next week. Melissa Gerads will be in contact with those who volunteered at the April meeting to help.

The Albany Heritage Day Committee will again sell ads on the back of the Heritage Day flyer that will be distributed in the July 27<sup>th</sup> edition of the Stearns Morrison Enterprise. There are currently 10 ads available for \$33 each. Several members in attendance committed to an ad. Anyone else that is interested should contact the Chamber office.

Chamber scholarship winner is Rebecca Walz. Scholarship winners will be recognized at tonight's Senior Banquet.

#### Upcoming Events:

\* Albany Area Hospital & Medical Center 11<sup>th</sup> Annual 'Drive for Health' Golf Tournament on June 7<sup>th</sup>. This is an 18 hole best ball golf scramble for \$75 and includes lunch and dinner. Hole sponsorship and donations are welcome. If you are interested in attending just the dinner, the cost is \$10.

\* Bueckers City Sanitation City Wide Cleanup will be held on Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9AM to 12PM in the Albany City Hall parking lot. Most items can be dropped off for \$5 - \$15.

\* Jaycee Street Dance & Harley Raffle, June 12<sup>th</sup> at Stubby's Tavern.

\* Whispering Acres Open House on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

\* Arts in the Park, Wednesdays June 9<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> from 7-8PM at Legion Park; Albany Community Band will be featured on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Albany Mutual Telephone Company and Kraft Foods donations, treats will be available.

Scott Thielman, Albany Area Schools, had several school announcements.

- Senior graduation is May 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Bus garage should be complete by the end of May
- June 7, Summer Youth Recreation Begins, Community Education
- June 7, Summer Youth Enrichment Begins, Community Education

All event information can be found on the school's website: [www.albany.k12.mn.us](http://www.albany.k12.mn.us)

Prize drawing was won by Diane Haskamp.

Dean Goebel announced the next Chamber General Membership Meeting which is Wednesday, June 16th, 2010 at NOON at Grace Alive! Church. Lunch provided by Twin Pines Catering for \$6 per person.

Respectively submitted,  
Kim Fish, Executive Secretary