

Minutes
Albany Area Chamber of Commerce
General Membership Meetings
May 18, 2011
12:00 Noon @ Hillcrest

Members present: Melissa Gerads, Kathleen Magel, Laura Reitmeier, Mary Richter, Steve Dooley, Paul Tomczik, Mary Sauerer, Janelle Wunderlich, Lynn Jenc, Lynn Pennie, Leah Rosen, Jeannie White, Evelyn Budde, Sandy Krebs, Rebecca Binek, Ami Ohmann, Dale Overman, and Renee Thelen
Guest: Corrine Hadrich

Meeting called to order by Chamber President, Kathleen Magel at 12:00 pm, introductions were made.

Ms. Magel introduced our guest speaker, Corrine Hadrich. Corrine spoke on Midwest Dairy Association. She talked of the dairy industry. She spoke of her family and commitment and dedication to their farm and the dairy industry. The membership thanked Corrine for coming in today.

The General Membership reviewed the minutes from the April 20th meeting. No changes or corrections made.

Motion to approve the minutes made by Renee Thelen and seconded by Mary Sauerer.

Treasurer Report presented by Interim Treasurer, Laura, Reitmeier. No activity to report- CD due on 5-24-11 at Stearns Bank.

No changes or corrections made to the Treasurer Report. Motion to approve Treasurer Report made by Tom Schneider and seconded by Evelyn Budde. Report will stand as written.

The Albany Buck Report; Melissa Gerads reported that balance was \$2,290.24 with little activity this past month.

Mary Sauerer thanked Gary Winkels and Bob Forster for putting the flower pots out on Main Street. She also mentioned that when the budget was put together (Dec 2010) no money was budgeted for flowers because the committee was under the impression that the main street project would be in place in 2011 and there would be no need for flowers. After some discussion a motion was made by Melissa Gerads to take up to \$500 from the general checking for the purchase of flowers seconded by Evelyn Budde. Mary will handle ordering the flowers and coordinating a date to plant. Discussion was also had as to a group of Girl Scouts that offered to help- again Mary will handle contacting them and setting guidelines for how many girls per adult is required.

Mary Sauerer also spoke on Heritage Day- the theme will be *"Life's A Circus"*. The grand marshals will be the Doctors of Albany (medical, chiropractic, dentist and veterinarian). Music is lined up (The Gene Ostendorf band for the afternoon and Kentucky Thunder for the evening) and the committee has begun their monthly meetings. Also it was mentioned to be sure and thank the Lions and Jaycees for their donation of \$3,000 each for fireworks.

Evelyn Budde of Mercy Manor talked about the land they purchase from the Schwinghammer Addition east of Albany. They will be building another 30 unit affordable housing unit. There are guidelines for the occupants such as age and income. They are seeking a grant for this project and she asked that anyone interested in writing a letter of support please do so, the deadline is June 21st. She has sample letters and info if your businesses want to write a letter. Evelyn read a letter that was drafted up to be sent on behalf of the chamber. Motion made by Tom Schneider and seconded by Laura Reitmeier to send the letter.

Tom Schneider talked briefly about the Main Street Project- MNDOT could potentially fund an additional \$300,000 due to a roadway program approved by Governor Mark Dayton called Building Better Roads for MN. The Main Street Committee is looking at different types of poles/fixtures, LED, metal halide and cost estimates for the street lighting. More meetings will be held in the near future and opportunities for the public to come to city hall and view plans and ask questions. The City has also have entered into an agreement with the owner of the house on the corner of 1st St and Railroad Ave (Bueckers family) - the City is looking to purchase the property with the condition that the current owner can remain in the house until she is ready to move to increase the radius at the intersection to improve the ability for vehicles to travel through the intersection.

Steve Dooley, Superintendent of Albany Area Schools, discussed the meeting they had with the Strategic Group. It consisted of about 45 community members- the next meeting they have will be on June 7th. Mr. Dooley informed membership that AAS is almost ready to go live with webcasting student activities and will have most activities available, with exception of many plays due to copy right issues. They are partnering with Albany Mutual Telephone to broadcast the events. You can currently go to www.webcast50.com and view 7 events. They plan to have graduation on webcast. Steve also stated that the seniors graduate on May 27th and the rest of the students will be done on June 2nd.

Lynn Jenc from Albany Area Schools invited all parents with young children to the Early Childhood Picnic on Thursday May 19th in Avon from 5:30-7:30. Mrs. Jenc invited everyone to a 5K on June 18th in Avon. She passed out flyers for members to take back to their business to hang up for the upcoming Farmers Market to be held on Tuesday's from June 7 thru October 11 from 3-6pm at St Benedict's Parish Center (south side). Mrs. Jenc also had flyers for Albany's Concerts in the Park to be held every Wednesday during the month of June from 7-8pm. Mrs. Jenc said the Community Gardens are up and running- the group had a goal to have 5 interested

people this year and they have 10. The gardens are located near the water tower and new water treatment facility, north of town. The plots are 10x10 or 20x20.

Renee Thelen from Albany Area Hospital and Medical Center reminded everyone of their 12th Annual Golf Fundraiser on 6/6/11. Letters have been sent to area businesses. If you are interested in golfing, please let her know—If you are not a golfer, please feel free to join them for the meal that evening. Cost for just the meal is \$10. She also let everyone know of the Living Healthy with Diabetes class this week at Our Saviors Lutheran Church.

Dale Overman of Albany Recycling passed out info on the Relay of Life walk in Sauk Centre on June 24th. They are putting 100 bags together for the cancer survivors and all businesses are invited to donate items for these bags- items he mentioned were such as pencils, notepads, etc. Also any donations are welcome for the event and silent auction.

Ami Ohmann of Albany Mutual Telephone introduced Sandy Krebs from Cable One. Cable One has partnered up with the phone company and will handle television advertising productions and sales support. Businesses can contact her to advertise at a very affordable rate. The ads will appear on several national network channels inserted in the phone company's Digital TV service. Business card and brochures were available for businesses interested in advertising.

Evelyn Budde thanked anyone who attended the "*Wine and Dine with M.O.M.*" fundraiser that was held at Seven Dolors parish center. They considered their first year a success.

Dean Mitchell, Albany Fire Chief, informed us that they were awarded a FEMA grant for just over \$61,300. Those funds were used to purchase better radios, pages, fire fighting gear, etc. He thanked businesses for their continued support of the Fire Department.

Prize drawing winner was Renee Thelen

Next meeting will be held at city hall, Wednesday June 15 at 12:15- bring your own lunch

Meeting was adjourned at 1:02 pm

Respectively submitted,
Melissa Gerads, Acting Secretary