

## DUNDY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MINUTES, August 7, 2008

The Dundy County Chamber of Commerce met at the Community Building at 6:00 p.m., mdt, with 5 members present. Gary Clark, Treasurer, presided. All other officers were absent. There being no one to take minutes, Judy Owens volunteered and will submit the minutes for August meeting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer's report was submitted, indicating a current account of \$26,505.88. It was moved/seconded to accept the report as submitted. Vote to accept was unanimous.

### ACTION COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Community Improvement: Gary Clark presented a bill in the amount of \$246.42 from Owens True Value for various projects he has worked on and completed. It was moved and seconded to pay said bill. Vote to pay was unanimous. A brief discussion of the painted shed at the Fair Grounds ensued.

2. Benkelman promotion/ Graphics: Ben Blecha discussed the cost of printing brochures and distribution possibilities. Printing will occur because it was already approved by the Chamber but no plan for distribution is in place. Judy suggested discussion with Kathy Stahlecker because she was Chamber President when the last promotional brochures were developed and distributed and knows how to work with the state Travel and Tourism office to get the best distribution accomplished, for free. It was agreed that it was not worth the expense to pay a distributor to take on the project.

3. Web Site: No Report

4. Funding: No Report

5. Housing: Harlan discussed the meetings he has attended both in Lincoln and in McCook concerning housing development and clean-up. Benkelman did not receive a housing grant in the last round of requests but has addressed the issues which kept the grant award from being awarded. There is hope that the next round of funding will bear fruit. However, the whole issue remains a difficult one to solve and it was agreed that the Chamber needs to become an active participant in the resolution of the problem, while the city takes the lead. Abandoned or owned but falling down properties are making improvement very difficult and grant monies hard to come by. Community pride is being challenged.

6. Retail/Business Development: No Report

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Leadership Plenty: Judy Owens reported that she found good interest and financial

support for the program from AmFirst Bank and BWTelcom. In addition, Stratton may want to send 4 participants. The biggest problem is to find the participants here and determine who should invite them. It was decided that Judy would visit with Pat Rotherham and ask for his help and a list was developed as possible participants. It was agreed that the program needs to move forward as soon as possible. It was also agreed that the Chamber should sponsor at least two people and that there should be two high school juniors included in the first round of participants, paid for by the Chamber, although there was no formal action taken on the expenditure.

2. Gary Clark requested a \$100.00 donation from the Chamber to the Haigler Blue Grass festival fund. It was moved/seconded and unanimously agreed to. Gary will issue the check forthwith.

3. Scott Vanderford suggested that the Chamber should approach the Fair Board about become involved in the Fair Parade, promoting, organizing, and actually managing it on parade day. This was originally the Chamber of Commerce's project for the Dundy County Fair and the Fair Board was rarely if ever involved in the actual management of the parade. Obviously, this is old history so the approach needs to be done gingerly but the group agreed that the parade has become a sad affair and the Chamber should be involved, since it's purpose is to promote local business and community pride. Getting the band to march again will be a major effort! But, this discussion should continue.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Owens, Acting Secretary