



May 1, 2008

Minutes of the Meeting

The meeting was held in the Community Building located at 908 Huron Street, Benkelman, NE. Members present: Joya Neville, Linda Melchert, Harlan Cansler, Rod Wiese, Judy Owens, Gary Clark, Pat Rotherham, Randy Hudson, and Robert Holland.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Vice President Joya Neville. She welcomed guest Megan Rotherham, President of Dundy County/ Stratton FBLA. Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed, motion to approve was made by Harlan Cansler and seconded by Judy Owens; motion carried.
2. Treasurer's report: Gary Clark submitted a copy for all to review which included expenditures for items purchased under \$500 for community projects, motion to approve was made by Judy Owens, seconded by Harlan Cansler; motion carried. A second motion was made by Rod Weise to have Chamber match \$300 donation submitted recently for concrete retaining wall to be installed down at the Springs", second by Judy Owens; motion carried.
3. Megan Rotherham gave award winning speech to the chamber regarding the importance of buying local to support your home town. She also displayed coffee cups that had advertising on them for businesses around town. These will be offered to the various coffee shops to help bring awareness to the many different shops available. This project was developed from ideas submitted by Jim Kier and Pat Rotherham who had seen cups from other communities with advertising on them. The FBLA club placed 8th in the state with this project. Anyone interested in purchasing cups need to contact Mrs. Peggy Parker.
4. Old Business:
 - a. Action Groups
 - i. Benkelman Beautification/Community Improvement – Gary Clark gave an update on the various projects in process.
 - ii. Website Communications – Scott Vanderford, negative report
 - iii. Graphic Communications – Ben Blecha, negative report
 - iv. Funding – Pat Rotherham, negative report
 - v. Housing – Linda Jones, negative report

vi. Retail/Business Development – Jerry Preston, negative report.

5 New Businesses:

- b. Robert Holland gave an overview of an upcoming press release regarding Wine Group International global market ventures. They are working with Nebraska Business Development Center in Chadron to put together a business, marketing plan with financing for the \$1.5 million venture.

- c. Misc. – discussion on the “Welcome to Benkelman” banners led to a cooperative arrangement having the city assisting members with putting the banners in place.

5. Next Meeting: June 5, 2008

6. Adjournment at 7:30 pm

/s/ Linda Melchert, Secretary