



January 8, 2009

Minutes of the Meeting

The meeting was held in the Community Building located at 908 Huron Street, Benkelman, NE. Members present: Harlan Cansler, Gary Clark, Randy Hudson, Bob Prangley, and Rita Jones.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by President – Rita Jones.
2. The minutes from the December 4, 2008 meeting were reviewed. Motion by Harlan Cansler to approve. Second by Gary Clark. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.
3. Treasurer's report was submitted by Gary Clark. Review showed 5 credits during the past month for a total of \$1,788.43 and 19 debits for a total of \$1,818.71. Last month's balance was \$23,338.33 and current balance is \$23,308. Gary noted that many of the bills from the Christmas promotion are just now arriving for payment. Motion by Bob Prangley to approve the treasurer's report and payment of the bills. Second by Randy Hudson. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.
4. Old Business:
 - a. Action Groups
 - i. Benkelman Beautification/Community Improvement – Gary Clark noted that there was nothing to report at tonight's meeting.
 - ii. Website Communications – Negative report.
 - iii. Graphic Communications – Negative report.
 - iv. Funding – Negative report.
 - v. Housing – Negative report.
 - vi. Retail/Business Development – Negative report.
 - b. Review of Christmas Promotion – The group reviewed Gary Clark's compilation of Christmas Promotion Participants, Gift Drawing Donors, and Critical Success Factors. Some significant numbers presented which were made possible by the generosity of the donors and volunteers were:

1. Two well-attended children's movies with over 100 Santa goodie bags distributed
2. \$1,300 Ping Pong balls blasted
3. 140 Gifts presented through the drawings, business lighting awards, and the poker walk
4. 36,000 Santa Bucks awarded to patrons of local businesses (This is 8 reams of paper!!)
5. **Total value of promotion estimated at \$10,000 with prizes, promotion/advertisement, and volunteer activities**

Motion by Gary Clark to an ad for the newspaper as a Thank You with listing of all participating donors. Second by Bob Prangle. Motion carried unanimously of members present.

- c. Leadership Plenty Update – Rita shared the report from Judy Owens on the upcoming Leadership Plenty class. The class will begin on January 29th at 5:30pm at the Community Building. 17 participants have committed to the program. Although there are several businesses who will be providing scholarships to individuals, the fees will need to be paid by the Chamber at start-up and the Chamber may be reimbursed at a later date by those businesses. Motion by Harlan Cansler for the Chamber the bill for tuition for 17 participants in the Leadership Plenty Program. Second by Gary Clark. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

5. New Business

- a. Discussion turned to issues currently on the table for the City of Benkelman. Mayor Harlan Cansler offered to field questions. Discussion included water treatment plant, sewer conditions, city utility rates, and abandoned property. The group voiced interest in restoring residential properties that will soon become property of the City of Benkelman.

6. Next Meeting: February 5, 2009 with initial agenda items to include: 1) Reclamation Projects, 2) Fall Festival Street Dance, and 3) Membership Drive.

7. Adjournment at 7:00 pm

/s/ Rita Jones, President for
Linda Melchert, Secretary