



April 2, 2009

Minutes of the Meeting

The meeting was held at the Dundy County Senior Center located at 710 Chief Street, Benkelman, NE. Members present: Bob Prangley, Cheryl Prangley, Harlan Cansler, Rita Jones, Joyce Blair, Linda Melchert, Randy Hudson, Judy Owens, and Jann Clark.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Vice-President Randy Hudson.
2. The minutes from the March 5, 2009 meeting were reviewed. Motion by Bob Prangley for approval of the minutes as recorded. Second by Linda Melchert. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.
3. Treasurer's report was prepared by Gary Clark and submitted by 2009 treasurer Scott Vanderford. Review showed revenue of \$250 from membership dues and 2 debits for a total of \$56.93. Last month's balance was \$17,964.05 and current balance is \$18,157.12. Motion by Harlan Cansler to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Second by Randy Hudson. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.
4. Old Business:
 - a. Action Groups
 - i. Benkelman Beautification/Community Improvement – Gary Clark was unable to attend tonight's meeting. General discussion was held on beautification and some environmental issues within the city were discussed.
 - ii. Website Communications – Webmaster Scott Vanderford was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Bob Prangley had a suggestion to enhance the website and will visit with Scott to see if the Chamber's website could have a link to Nancy Herhahn's site "Nebraska Rural Living" which provides information on rural development across Nebraska and spotlights small town businesses. The business spotlight on the Chamber's website was further discussed. This spotlight provides a great avenue for local businesses to get their story out to the general public. The business selection process was discussed and importance placed on selecting businesses strategically to promote them during their seasonal activities. Motion by Bob Prangeley to begin running two (2) business

spotlights per month and recommend the selection of the following businesses....The Flower Pot, Helena Chemical Company, Mathews Family Chiropractic, Top Hat Ag, Dundy County Processors, and Sage Hill Winery. Second by Linda Melchert. Motion carried unanimously of the members present. Bob offered to interview the businesses to provide the story if the photos could be provided in digital format by Scott, the businesses, or someone willing to take the photographs.

- iii. Graphic Communications – Ben Blecha was unable to attend tonight’s meeting. The members are reminded that the Dundy County Brochures are available. Ben has the current supply.
 - iv. Funding – Negative report.
 - v. Housing – Negative report.
 - vi. Retail/Business Development – Negative report.
- b. Fall Festival – Street Dance Promotion. The Rumbles were contracted last fall to play the street dance on Friday evening, September 18, 2009. Rita reported on meetings with Gary Clark and City Manager Joel Richardson. Both Gary and Joel had attended dances in Grand Island played by The Rumbles. Gary gathered information on layout and staging the event and Joel gather further information on electrical requirements and connections. The possibilities of beverage sales was discussed and the requirements for State Licensure of a Beer Garden. Harlan offered to write letters to the local businesses who currently hold Liquor Licenses to notify them of the Chamber sponsored event and to provide instruction that they are to put together their plan for approval through the Benkelman City Council as the local governing body. This approval is required to accompany a request of license to the State for the beer garden. Other topics included the actual stage area and the possibility of utilizing the mobile stage owned by the Fair Board or finding some flat bed trailers. Randy asked for Rita to provide him with the dimensions required in the band’s contract. Other possibilities for the event were discussed including vendor booths, sponsorship, and promotion through DCCCD website, press releases, and radio to include a possibility of a remote spot. Another important requirement that was discussed was security for the dance and insurance against inclement weather. Rita will check on a quote for event insurance.
- c. Leadership Plenty Class – Judy Owens noted that this first year’s class is on the downhill slope. She discussed that a grant application to the Hansen Foundation will be made with the assistance of Pat Rotherham for expenses of this year’s and next year’s classes. Additional expenses that were not anticipated include the cost of the trip to Lincoln to observe the legislative process and meals. Judy will be assisting in getting the budget put together.
- d. Membership Drive – Several membership applications were turned in at the meeting. All in attendance continue to work on their business lists. Rita noted the importance of obtaining the email addresses for the membership as there will be no meeting reminder cards sent.

5. New Business

- a. Agendas and Meeting Structure was discussed and the group informally agreed that items iv., v., and vi. can be dropped from future agendas, but leave the meeting open to discussion should there be future developments in any of these areas. It was requested that a section for selection of businesses for the upcoming business spotlight be placed routinely on the agenda so the process can be perpetuated.
- b. Other – Nothing.

6. Next Meeting: May 7, 2009 at 6pm at the Dundy County Senior Center.

7. Adjournment at 7:50 pm

/s/ Rita Jones, Secretary DCCCD