



June 4, 2009

Minutes of the Meeting

The meeting was held at the Dundy County Senior Center located at 710 Chief Street, Benkelman, NE. Members present: Jann Clark, Betty Deyle, Hal Walker, Rita Jones, Gary Clark, Randy Hudson, Linda Melchert, Bob Prangley, Linda Jones, and Joyce Blair.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by President Gary Clark. Members were welcomed including new member Hal Walker, owner of Sage Hill Winery and Betty Deyle who informed the group that she is representing the Dundy County Library tonight.
2. The minutes from the May 7, 2009 meeting were reviewed. Motion by Bob Prangley for approval of the minutes as recorded. Second by Randy Hudson. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.
3. Treasurer's report was reviewed in the form of the current statement from AmFirst Bank and accounting of running entries as recorded by Treasurer Scott Vanderford and submitted tonight by Bob Prangley. Beginning balance on the account as of May 1st was \$19,077.33. Total debits for the month were \$288.03 and total credits were \$1,210. Ending balance on May 29th was \$19,999.30. Income was comprised of membership dues that continue to come in. Expenses consisted of routine bills for telephone, website management and miscellaneous supplies. Motion by Bob Prangley to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Second by Linda Jones. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.
4. Old Business
 - a. Action Groups
 - i. Gary Clark discussed Benkelman Improvement/Community Projects. Updates were shared on the following projects:
 1. The Spring – A Block Party is scheduled for this upcoming Saturday, June 6th. Weather permitting, workers will gather to complete the installation of the decorative block retaining wall.
 2. The project on the Veteran's Memorial located on the Court House Lawn will soon be complete once the landscaping is done. Gary gave accolades to the Pinc Ladies for the \$500

donation from the organization to the project which was raised through this year's "Flamingo Flocking".

3. The "Last Day of School Carnival" went very well with Gary Clark and Joya Neville running the Boat Ride for the day. The Chamber will sponsor the boat ride again for the fair. Gary noted that there are no repairs needed this year and that the schedule usually fills up quickly with volunteers to run the ride.
4. Gary discussed the anticipation of this summer's scheduled musical events which provided reference to under the umbrella of "Upper Republican Music". He talked to the group about the DCH Foundation talent show this coming Saturday, the upcoming Rumble on the River in September, the MNB Hot Summer Nights concerts in Stratton and McCook, the Haigler Blue Grass Festival, and possibilities of several Jam Sessions in the Benkelman Park that could augment the Fall Festival and/or 4th of July. Motion by Gary Clark for the chamber to repeat last year's donation of \$100 to the Haigler Blue Grass Festival. Second by Randy Hudson. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.
5. Gary notified the group that the John Hopkins 4K bikers will be in Benkelman June 29, 2009. Kris and Caroline Crossett are planning a cancer benefit street dance in front of Jitter Connection that evening.

Gary reported that plans are in the making for a celebration on July 4th. This year will mark the 75th anniversary of the Benkelman American Legion. With the recent restoration of the Littlefield flag located in front of the Legion Building, it would be fitting to have a tribute to this work of art. Between Gary and Tobe Hiatt, plans will develop further.

- ii. Scott Vanderford was unable to attend and there were no new developments reported. Gary commended Bob Prangley for his story and picture of this month's featured business, Mathews Family Chiropractic. It was noted that a press release in the Benkelman Post might also direct readers to find the story on DCCCD's website www.bestofneb.com. Bob Prangley reminded all present that that the promotional pamphlets are available and Ben Blecha has a good supply in his prosthetics lab located next to Peckham Dental.
- b. Fall Festival – The recent publication from the Benkelman Post was discussed as well as its distribution. These stuffers that have information about upcoming events in the area were distributed to Dundy County alumni. The Rumble was featured with a half page ad on the front of the publication. Gary encouraged all to take some of these publications with them when going out of town to share with family and even other public places across the state. Gary visited the meeting of the Dundy County Commissioners to seek approval of a resolution in support of the Rumble as a breast cancer fund raiser for Dundy County Hospital. There will soon be a press release on the Rumble event with a target for funds in the amount of \$29,141 earmarked for a program at Dundy County Hospital to provide mammograms for individuals who are unable to afford this testing. Bob Prangley shared information on the "Indoor Sellers Market" that he is organizing. This will be a 3-day

opportunity for community members to set up a table and sell their wares. He has the former NAPA store building secured for the event and is working out further details. Vendor possibilities include collectors, art and crafts, produce, etc. The goal is to have 60% of the capacity committed by August 15th. Spaces will include an advance payment. Linda Jones noted that the Justice Lodge will meet this coming week to discuss their plans for the car show. Gary will work with local restaurants to discuss options for setting up a “food court” for the event. Hal Walker discussed the interest that Sage Hill has in participating, however he is working out the details of a wine tasting vs sales.

- c. Membership Drive – Gary noted that there are currently 52 members and he shared the current listing.

5. New Business:

- a. Report from Train the Trainer – Rita Jones reported that 6 residents of Dundy County Attended the training yesterday held in Imperial. The attendees included Arlene Stute, Mary Birge, Justin Miller, Ben Blecha, Shane Sis, and Rita Jones. This training provided information on presenting to diversified groups and gave many “tips” for successful presentations. Rita thanked the City of Benkelman for providing the “Local Match” for the program and noted that other programs will be forthcoming. Bob shared some printed information in the NCIP Leadership Challenge, asking that the group do some research and consideration to the program.
- b. Gary and Rita both received email from Scott Vanderford tendering his resignation as Chamber Treasurer. Scott later explained to Rita that he was unable to find time to accomplish the duties with the summer activities of his family and felt he should attend the meetings, but his schedule would not allow his attendance. Gary Clark nominated Jann Clark to the office of DCCCD treasurer. No further nominations were made. Randy Hudson seconded the nomination for Jann Clark. Motion of approval passed unanimously of the members present.
- c. The 2009 DCCCD Christmas promotion was discussed. Gary suggested the dates of December 5th and 19th for the promotion. He noted that last year’s promotion had cost the chamber \$2,900 above the donations from individuals and local merchants and suggested that this year’s promotion cut back on activities. The drawing for the Wii games was discussed and felt that this type of product continues to be popular with patrons and is becoming more popular with adults. The possibility of drawing for specific games was another option discussed.
- d. Other – Chamber Phone. The replies to the Chamber Phone were discussed. Bob Prangle offered to assume this responsibility. Motion by Rita Jones to appoint Bob Prangle as “Information Contact” for the DCCCD. Second by Joyce Blair. Motion passed unanimously of the members present.

e. Betty Deyle noted that the Library Board are very happy with the addition of concrete outside their entrance and would like to offer the use of this area as a Farmer's Market this summer. The library's hours do not start until 2pm and traditional vendors are sold out by this time. She invited all to the Library's open house that will be hosted next Thursday from 5-7pm. Gary remarked about the years of hard work and tenacity that have gone into moving the library from a tiny closet to the current facility certified by the Nebraska Library Commission..

6. Next meeting: July 2, 2009 at 6pm at the Dundy County Senior Center.

7. Adjournment at 7:50 pm

/s/ Rita Jones, Secretary DCCCD