



November 5, 2009

Minutes of the Meeting

The meeting was held at the Dundy County Senior Center located at 710 Chief Street, Benkelman, NE. Members present: Gary Clark, Randy Hudson, Linda Melchert, Rita Jones, Monica Mercer, Cheryl Prangley, Judy McCune, Beth Bolio, Joya Neville, Jann Clark, and Joyce Blair with guests Betty Sayers and Nancy Herhahn.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm by President Gary Clark.
2. The minutes from the October 1, 2009 regular meeting were reviewed. Motion by Beth Bolio for approval of minutes as recorded. Second by Linda Melchert. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.
3. Treasurer Jann Clark reviewed the Treasurer's report for period ending 10-31-09. Beginning balance on the account as of October 1st was \$15,225.92. Total debits for the month were \$2,393.13 and total credits were \$220.00 for a month-end balance of \$13,052.81. Motion by Linda Melchert to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Second by Joyce Blair. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.
4. Old Business
 - a. Action Groups
 - i. Gary Clark reported that a historical signage is here and will be installed at "The Springs" by Mark Brunswig. Paul Downey has completed his Eagle Scout project at The Springs with the addition of the 2 benches and part table. There will be further activity by clearing out the grove of Elm trees. Judy McCune discussed the possibilities that grant funding could be used for some future beautification projects.
 - ii. Scott Vanderford was unable to attend tonight's meeting. There was nothing new from the Chamber Website.
 - b. 2009 Chamber Christmas Promotion –
 - i. Dates for the promotion again are December 5th and 19th. Ping Pong ball blasts will be done on both of these dates. Gary is ordering an additional 1K balls so there will be plenty for the youth to chase. In the blast, the businesses may sponsor balls, then provide gifts to the youngsters who turn them in. If our business would like to sponsor

balls, please contact Gary Clark at 423-2659. Gary will get the balls to you so you can mark them and will gather them prior to the blast.

- ii. The Chamber will sponsor one free movie on December 19th. Gary is traveling to the Benkelman Jaycees meeting this evening to see if they are interested in sponsoring a movie on December 5th. We have Santa committed to pass out goodies and greet the children after the movie. Mrs. Claus is sewing a new frock for him. The Hester Home is providing goodie bags for the children on the 19th. Joya will contact Stacy Barenberg to arrange for the free children's movie on December 19th.
- iii. Area businesses will be canvassed to solicit donations for the annual drawings which will be held both Saturdays. Each member present received a business listing. All businesses should be approached during the next two weeks as the Christmas Season will soon be upon us. Gary has planned a special meeting for Thursday evening, November 19th at 6pm at Beth's Bar & Grill to check on progress. Further information on the distribution of "Santa Bucks" will be discussed at this time. Last year the Chamber sponsored two Wii games that were given out in the Children's drawing (Children 7-12 grade), one for each day of the promotions. Gary proposed that the Chamber target providing 4 Wii games this year so there can be one for adults and one for children on each day of the promotion.

5. New Business

- a. Betty Sayers and Nancy Herhahn were introduced and shared a power point presentation on their business "Nebraska Rural Living". Their newsletter can be found by Googling "rural living" and it comes up #5. The Chamber has provided funding in the past for the endeavors of Nebraska Rural Living. Betty and Nancy shared their brochures on the "Chicken Dance Trail" which promotes tourism across Southwest and South Central Nebraska. Nebraska Rural Living also has a program for out-of-area visitors who come to communities along the Chicken Dance Trail. These visitors are given pins crafted into the shape of a Sandhills Crane to commemorate their travel. Joyce Blair from Flower Magic volunteered to be the pick-up point for the pins in Benkelman. They also shared information on Careerlink.com, a service of the AIM Institute which supports community development. Careerlink is Nebraska's leading, local, career development website, connecting the best people with the right jobs.
- b. Promotion of new businesses was discussed. All in attendance can see the need, but the who, what and how remain in question. Future discussions will be held and a written policy developed to provide the structure for this initiative. Judy McCune shared her promotional flyers on her new business Wagg'n Tails Groomery & Day Spaw located at 1104 West Hwy 24, just east of Owens True Value. She also distributed her new catalog from Alison's Pantry.

- c. Monica Mercer and Joya Neville shared their plans for window displays for the holiday season. Local building owners have agreed to loan their windows to promote the holiday season. Watch for festive displays in the Preston Building, Downtown vacant NAPA building and the Haines building on the corner across from the courthouse square. Monica has asked if any have old artificial Christmas Trees that could be used to please contact her at the Post.
 - d. Gary shared the plaque that has been made for the Survivor's tree on the court house lawn. There will be a ceremony scheduled in the near future to install the plaque.
 - e. KICX provided a donation of \$100 to the Chamber for the Rumble on the River and Breast Cancer Awareness event. Photo of the check being passed will be featured on their website and the donation will be captioned in the newspaper.
 - f. Girl Scout Troop #521 (5th & 6th Grade Girls) have identified their Silver Star Project which will be renovation and integration of the community bulletin board located next door to Joe's Depot. Troup Leader Melissa Vanderford had approached Gary Clark to see if the Chamber would help sponsor funding for the materials which would run around \$500. This project is a long-term project and no decision was made at tonight's meeting. Members of the troop will be making presentations to the Chamber and other local service oriented organizations to explain the project.
 - g. Judy shared information with the group on a band called "Thudwinker" that could be a possibility should the Chamber adopt the Rumble again next year.
 - h. Gary wished to thank the Senior Center for allowing the Pumpkin Judging to move inside during the early snowstorm experienced the day of the Spook Parade and Joya and Jan for their help. Gary noted that the Spook Parade had historically been a Chamber sponsored event, so we will need to keep this in mind for future years.
6. Next Meeting: Special meeting November 19, 2009 6 pm at Beth's Bar & Grill.

Regular meeting December 3, 2009 at the Dundy County Senior Center

7. Adjournment at 8:00 pm

/s/ Rita Jones, Secretary DCCCD