



February 5, 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, Joya Neville, and Rita Jones.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by President – Rita Jones.
2. The minutes from the January 8, 2009 meeting were reviewed. Gary Clark requested revision to the minutes in that the details were lacking in the discussion of critical success factors for the 2008 Christmas Promotion. Gary went on to list the following: 1.) The role that the Chamber President played in overall organization of the promotion by dividing the list of prospective contributors among the group for solicitation of prizes so this job was manageable, 2.) The suggestion from Scott Vanderford of providing two Wii games for grand prizes for the drawings, 3.) The overwhelming support from the Benkelman Post in providing a home base for the drawings on both Saturdays, and 4.) The spontaneous volunteerism from all who helped on these Saturdays, Several of these volunteers stood out for their efforts. These individuals were Jann Clark, Kacey Harper, Loretta Raile, and the three Fredrick's children – Aubrey, Grace, and Michael. Motion by Gary Clark to approve the minutes as amended. Second by Joya Neville. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.
3. Treasurer's report was submitted by Gary Clark. Review showed 1 credit during the past month for a total of \$25.00 and 10 debits for a total of \$2,261.65. Last month's balance was \$23,308.05 and current balance is \$21,071.40. This month's report reflected payment on many of the bills from the 2008 Christmas Promotion. Motion by Harlan Cansler to approve the treasurer's report and payment of the bills. Second by Joya Neville. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.
4. Old Business:
 - a. Action Groups
 - i. Benkelman Beautification/Community Improvement – Gary Clark announced the second annual "Spring Fling" which is scheduled for Saturday, March 21st. This project will include installation of a 2 foot high landscaping block wall around the 60 foot horseshoe curb overlooking the spring and making the

parking lot level to grade. All are welcome to come and work on the project. Partnering with the Chamber will be the Benkelman Veterans and Owens True Value. Gary noted that Owens will provide the blocks to the Chamber at cost for a total of \$720. Motion by Joya Neville to proceed with purchase of blocks and advertisement for promotion of the event. Second by Harlan Cansler. Motion passed unanimously of the members present. Gary will provide an overview of other projects slated for this year at the March 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. Leadership Plenty Class – Gary Clark noted that 11 participants attended the first meeting. Gary said the class participated in the Meyers-Briggs Colors Personality Assessment and there will be more information coming on economic development and entrepreneurship.

5. New Business

- a. Plans for the March meeting were discussed to include election of officers and Membership Drive was discussed. The key to successful recruitment of members is personal contact when asking the potential candidates to renew or join. This task could be well executed utilizing the model from this year's Christmas Promotion. Rita will have the working papers ready for distribution at the March meeting. The local merchants are looking for help in promoting their businesses. We need to find out what the group can do to help.
- b. Reclamation Project – There was some further discussion on the possibility that the Chamber could work on properties throughout the City that have been abandoned, but are sound enough that reclamation and renovation could bring them into a desirable and habitable state. Harlan noted that he will expound further at the March meeting, but went on to say that the City of Benkelman has been provided funding for City-Wide clean up and nuisance abatement. The funding is coming through the West Central Nebraska Development District and involves dividing the City into 12 sections.....cleaning up one section at a time. Further discussion continued on approaches to the clean up.
- c. There was some discussion on the Chamber sponsored Fall Festival Friday night Street Dance featuring "The Rumbles" scheduled for September 18th. It was suggested that the Chamber seek out other organizations that have sponsored these types of dances to assure all bases are covered and possibly attend a Rumbles street dance some time prior to our scheduled event.

6. Next Meeting: March 5, 2009.

7. Adjournment at 7:35 pm

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