



Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, March 4, 2010  
Benkelman Community Building

The meeting was held at the Benkelman Community Building, 809 Huron Street, Benkelman, NE. Members present: Ben Blecha, Meghann Pursley, Melissa Jacobitz, John Lemon, Wyatt Lemon, Bob Prangley, Cheryl Prangley, Monica Mercer, Hal Walker, Marty Hughes, Judy McCune.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:59 pm by President Ben Blecha.
2. Meeting Standards
  1. **EVERYONE MUST BE ON TIME.** There must be no exception to this unless there has been prior communication and an obvious problem. We respect that everyone's time is valuable.
  2. **EVERYONE MUST COME PREPARED.** There is nothing worse than a team being slowed down by someone who did not do their homework, be it reports, research, or simply keeping themselves informed on the project at hand.
  3. **EVERYONE MUST BE ALLOWED TO TELL THE TRUTH AND SPEAK THEIR MIND WITHOUT THREAT OF RETRIBUTION OR CONDEMNATION.**
  4. **THERE IS NO PUBLIC HUMILIATION PERMITTED.**
  5. **NO RAMBLING. STAY ON THE SUBJECT.**
  6. **LISTEN TO WHAT IS SAID:** You will have your turn to speak. What you have to say is important. You want to be heard, start by returning the favor.
  7. **YOU MUST BE WILLING TO POLITELY BUT FIRMLY "CALL" EACH OTHER ON THESE STANDARDS.** As a team we must help each other so we can accomplish great things!!
3. The minutes from the February 4, 2010 meeting were reviewed. Motion by Hal for approval of the minutes. Second by Monica. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.
4. Acting Treasurer Meghann Pursley reviewed the Treasurer's report for period ending 02-28-10. Beginning balance on the account as of February 1st was \$9,837.86. Total credits on the account were \$2,150.00. Total debits on the account were \$748.89, leaving a February month-end total of \$11,238.97. Motion by Judy to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Second by Cheryl. Motion carried unanimously of the members present.

5. Thank yous

Ben thanked Rod Ochsner; grand prix.

Bob took our list of 'wins' to the paper and it was printed.

Bob thanked Randy Raile; Christmas promotion.

6. Old Business:

a. Action Group Reports

i. Web-Site Communications tabled until next meeting

ii. Chamber Phone Communications

Bob Prangle gave the report:

**2.11.10**

Gene Roland from SourceGas re: Chamber dues. Please call 630-9773

**2.15.10**

303-946-0986 no message

**2.22.10**

George Hawkins 308-423-2680 New resident, wants to buy a car.

Returned call and learned he found a vehicle. Welcomed him to Benkelman.

**2.24.10**

Inquiry regarding the dates for the fair. 209-251-9067. He has pigs to show. Please call Charley.

**2.26.10**

Another inquiry on Fair dates to provide Mechanical Bull rides. 308-996-4245. Call Terry.

iii. Retail

Bob mentioned that the Chambers contribution to the retail handouts would be the costs of Monicas designs and ideas. Monica only requested to be reimbursed for stock photos which should be \$50 or less per handout for images. Monica has used some pre-paid images. Other members offered their pre-paid images for use as well. Motion by John to pay for stock images, second by Cheryl.

Bob questioned how to get the handouts approved by the businesses. It was suggested that a calculated cost be presented. It was also questioned if a business would pay for the handouts and also hand them out at an event. It was suggested by Marty to get the boy and girl scouts involved to do the hand outs. It was recommended that the businesses be contacted:

Bob – Redroom & Flower Magic

Judy – Barb & MT crafts

Monica – Scrapbook Heaven, Marilyn, Rose Grove

Meghan – Erdmans

iv. Jobs

John went over last meetings minutes. Ben shared that the main mission is to research in other communities how jobs have been created. Ben also mentioned that we are in process of building resources so we can be prepared for when a new business would be interested in moving to town. Cheryl thanked Ben for working on this.

- v. Membership Drive  
Cheryl gave the report:
  - 61 renewal letters were sent out to businesses and residents of Dundy County, 4 of which were out of the county.
  - 43 prospective letters were sent out, 35 were in Benkelman, 3 in Max, 5 in Haigler

Ben asked that a list of who we need to address again be compiled for the next meeting.

- b. Nebraska Rural Living Website Membership  
It was reported that the Rose Grove and Kayak Jak received minimal response. The cost of the membership versus benefits was discussed. This will be tabled until next meeting when Ben gets the information on if a mailing list is still available through this group.

- c. Budget  
The Historical monthly and annual commitments totaled \$6877.00:
  - Scoop media \$2656.00
  - BWtelcom \$500.00
  - Club OC \$500.00
  - Meeting rental \$285.00
  - Landscape \$736.00
  - Annual Christmas promo \$200.00
  - Nebraska Rural Living \$2000.00

Dues YTD: \$2300.00

Total Net Average -\$4577.00

Rumble costs were not included in these figures.

Ben noted that this negative Net needed to be considered when we budget new items this year in order to be fiscally responsible.

## 7. New Business:

- a. Leadership Plenty Class  
Ben discussed the previous class which taught leadership skills and will be a 2 day full program in Curtis. Scholarships may be available.
- b. Restaurant situations in town...how can we help?  
Pizza plus closed and needs help writing a business plan. Ben did contact her with info on free services.  
Ben has left messages for Zekes Too.  
Possible restaurant committee, if anyone in the area is interested they should contact Ben. Ask restaurant owners how the Chamber can be of assistance.
- c. Registered Agent  
Can we identify a place/person to be our new registered agent? Amfirst Bank and The City of Benkelman were suggested. Bob will contact the City, Meghan will contact Amfirst.
- d. Boys state support  
Monica designed a window display for a window in the old Napa building. Meghan and Cheryl will construct it on Friday March 5<sup>th</sup>.
- e. Other  
Bob recognized Monica as a winner for creating the handouts and the Tigers window display.

6. Next Meeting: Regular Meeting – April 8, 2010 6:00

Adjournment at 8:04 pm

/s/ Melissa Jacobitz, Secretary DCCCD