



Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2017

President Dan Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:30am

ROLL CALL

Present –Dan Mitchell, Kristie Smith, John Niemela, Matt Stahlin, Terri Legg, Cindy Stowell, Keven Krieger, Brent Noskey, Richard Ostrander, Patty Donovan, David Walker, Kat Anderson(**Quorum**)

Absent – Tonda Rich, Mike Verdun

I. SBAM Program Membership

Dan Mitchell asked if the board members had time to review their packets and if they saw any concerns with the program that SBAM was offering. He then added if there were no concerns he would like a motion to move forward with the benefit to our members. **(Moved: Stahlin/Support: Walker)**

Mr. Mitchell stated that Ken Root from SBAM will be attending the Annual Dinner this year. Kat Anderson advised that he could have his own table and could speak at the event as well.

II. Board Membership

Dan Mitchell stated that the original design of the board was for 15 members. We've lost board members in a balanced fashion. We would need to replace a total of seven board members to make it fifteen. Mr. Mitchell stated that there have been four nominations for board members. Amber Rood of the Daily News, Van Kassouni of KMI, Rob Lawrence of Encounter Church, and Jennifer Meirendorf have all been nominated for board positions. Mr. Mitchell stated that he would like the board to continue to prospect for board positions as well as award nominations for our next meeting. Also, if any current board members would like to be re-elected they would also need to fill out the proper form for nomination. Mr. Mitchell added that there

may be some confusion over the due dates so we are hoping to receive more at the deadline for the dinner. He stated that because of this quick turn-around there would either need to be an electronic vote or if there are not enough applications that the members as a whole could vote at the Annual Dinner. Mr. Mitchell is a little leery of the electronic vote because of the chance of emails not being received. He also asked that if board members hear that one of our chamber members are not receiving the information from our emails that they ask for an update on email address so we can double check.

Richard Ostrander stated that he believes we would have more applicants if the meeting times were changed. He is wondering if the meeting time conflicts with potential board members. Evening meetings might be a possibility.

III. Office Location

Dan Mitchell stated that the idea behind our location now (City Hall) is that there was already the foot traffic of people asking chamber questions coming to the front counter. He added because of Keven's position and knowledge of what's going on in the community he seemed like the most logical fit.

John Niemela stated that he is not opposed to the Chamber meeting at City Hall. However, he also believes that the Chamber needs a plan moving forward and does not want to diminish the ability for the Chamber to function. Mr. Niemela added that he does not care for his staff in this position as he has hired them for a specific purpose that is not Chamber related.

Patty Donovan offered several spaces throughout the downtown that could be potential options. Ms. Donovan spoke specifically about the Arts Council building next to Chemical bank. She also spoke about the space adjacent to the Gus Macker building on main St. She said either location would be ideal. Ms. Donovan spoke about the Chamber in Otsego uses their space as a retail space for consignment crafts and different things from people in the community. She believes our chamber could mimic this. Dan Mitchell spoke on the Arts Council building and informed the board that Christine Felde has given us word on that building and it will not be available. Brent Noskey stated that there may be some space at the Orchard Hills Building, but Mr. Mitchell worried about the visibility. Mr. Mitchell believes that there should be a committee made up to research potential places that we could utilize. This committee will be comprised of Richard Ostrander, Patty Donovan, and Brent Noskey.

Richard Ostrander stated that he noticed two things about other chambers. One was that we charge drastically less than other chambers. Also, that most chambers have

direct links through the City's website. Mr. Ostrander believes that's not a coincidence.

Terri Legg asked if the entire City Hall was being used. Keven Krieger responded with what was usable is being used.

IV. Part-Time Employee Position

Dan Mitchell asked about both dues and if it is plausible to have a part-time employee at this time. Mr. Mitchell stated that the hours and days worked are still to be determined. He believes that the person selected is going to be the face of the Chamber so they need to have specific skills and be positive about the City and Chamber. The person selected will need to organize all programs, manage the social media and website, and deliver to Chamber member's needs. Mr. Mitchell stated that Keven (Krieger) puts in a lot of hours and he is not sure that everyone realizes the amount of work he does for free and in his spare time. Mr. Mitchell stated that the real question is who this person will be and if we can afford both a part-time person and a location for them to be at. Matt Stahlin worries about increasing the dues. He believes someone retired or not dependent on this position as a salary. Mr. Stahlin believes we would have to more than double our dues to be able to come close to affording these extra expenses and that's probably not even affordable. Dan Mitchell believes that it should still be a flat fee and that we should not increase it to an amount that seems unreasonable. Richard Ostrander stated that he hears "where is the benefit?" Dan Mitchell responded with the plan of the Chamber moving forward which is SBAM, Lunch&Learn meetings, the Expo, and most of all providing a benefit to each other. That means member to member as well. Matt Stahlin stated that the dues should be \$150.00 **(Moved: Stahlin/Support: Stowell)**

Matt Stahlin also added that he reaches out to his suppliers and lets them know how important it is that they are involved in this Chamber as well. Keven Krieger stated that this year was about getting our feet back and restructuring the Chamber. This next year has to be about membership and making them feel the benefit we offer.

V. **Belding Belding Awards**

These are the potential nominees for these award categories. The board will receive an email with this comprised list and they will vote for their “top 3” nominees.

a. **Building Belding - Celebrating those businesses entities who have made a significant investment in their own facilities and, in turn, have invested in “Building Belding”.**

- i. B&O Saws
- ii. Rob Roy Industries
- iii. Geisen Group
- iv. Hometown Hardware
- v. Accurate Auto
- vi. The Right Door
- vii. Birch Body Works
- viii. Old School Automotive Repair
- ix. Tammi’s Tax Service
- x. Burger King
- xi. Millie’s
- xii. Extruded Aluminum
- xiii. Crossroads Portables
- xiv. Flat River Group
- xv. Burger King

b. **Being Belding - Celebrating those individuals who have seen a need in the community and taken it upon themselves to organize and compete an event, project, etc. that exemplifies the “Community First” attitude and the type of community member we would all aspire to “Be”.**

- i. Leppink/Belding Community Fund
- ii. Peter McGowan
- iii. Kristie Smith
- iv. Larry Lathrop
- v. Matt Stahlin
- vi. Bruce Brown
- vii. Denny Craycraft

c. **Bettering Belding - Celebrating those community members (individuals, organizations, businesses) who have taken action to improve and “Better” the overall life of the Belding Community.**

- i. Scott McNeal
- ii. Dan Mitchell
- iii. Bruce Brown
- iv. Brent Noskey
- v. Nature’s Needs
- vi. Michael Ostrander
- vii. Katherine Henry
- viii. Kareen & Ernie Thomas
- ix. Belding Gardeneer’s
- x. Museum Board

VI. **Annual Dinner Organization**

Dan Mitchell asked the board to consider a door prize or raffle for the annual dinner. There are several different things that could be considered. The board chose:

- Grand Rapids Drive Tickets
- Grand Rapids Griffins Tickets
- STOMP Tickets
- Musical Tickets at Devos
- Golf and Brunch at Candlestone
- Free Chamber Membership
- Wine Tasting (Donated by Brent Noskey)

VII. **Board Meeting of 09/21/17 – Clean Up Items**

- a. **Approval of Crossroad Portables Invoice – Belding 5K - \$100.00**
- b. **Approval of Expenditure for Annual Dinner prizes - \$500.00**

(Moved: Smith/Support: Legg)

VIII. **Next Meeting**

- A. Thursday, October 19th, 7:30am

Meeting was adjourned at 8:51am