



Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting Minutes August 28, 2013

Present: Dwight Fanton, Girard Kelly, Joe Hart, Donna Bliven, Linda Hunt, Deb Aumick, Judy Hopkins, Rod Biehler, Lee Gridley, Michael Cook, Steve Havey, Brian Loucks, Doug Frank

Excused: Lee James, Bill Hart, Dan Synakowski, Joe Kent, Phyllis Gaerte, Donna Sweet

Absent: Rob Cole

Legislative Liaison: Mike Healy

Staff: Gretchen Hanchett – Executive Director

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by President, Brian Loucks.

Minutes: On a motion by Mike Cook and seconded by Lee Gridley, the minutes of June 26 2013, were approved as presented. Motion carried

Treasurer's Report: In the excused absence of Lee James, Brian Loucks presented the Treasurer Report. The ending balance as of July 31, 2013 was \$36,359.80. Quick books, has made it much easier to track expenses and balance the report. On a motion by Girard Kelly and seconded by Joe Hart the Treasurer's report was approved. Motion carried.

President's Update: Brian thanked Donna Bliven for allowing the Chamber to have their meeting at Jones Memorial Hospital and also thanked her for the snacks and drinks provided. Brian stated we are postponing voting on the bylaws until next month. Dan Synakowski had not seen the By-law attachment sent to review. Gretchen will hand deliver after the meeting. Depending on his comments we may be able to approve the by-laws at next month's meeting. For now we are continuing to work off the current bylaws. Also, Bill Hart contacted Brian and expressed an interest to resign from the board due to not being able to attend board meetings with his commitments at work and Genesee River Wilds as their board president. He is now on the Executive Committee as immediate past board president. He will transition someone to the Nomination Chairman and when elections take place next April and will resign from the board at that time. There is currently nothing in the by-laws that state we must fill the past president position on the Executive Committee so that seat will be left vacant. Gretchen will be at Fire Ball for the next board meeting, September 25, 2013 but we will have a general assembly meeting due to having to have 10 meetings per year. The meeting will be held at Crossroads.

Executive Directors Update:

CGI - County Video Program, they are still working on the video. Brian stated CGI produced a video for his business and he is happy with it, he stated "it was done very well". Corinna mentioned Allegany Arc had contacted them and they did not get any response. Gretchen talked about a new

member, CLIX, they also do a very nice video program for a reasonable price. Information on the program was available to the board. Gretchen reported that she has hosted many travel writers this summer. She continues to work with Cattaraugus County's development & tourism office with these projects. On a previous travel writers visit, they met at Sprague's, then to Cuba Cheese, Cuba Opera House. The next group of Travel Writers, one from Triple A, came the weekend of Tough Mudders (Sunday) and toured museums in Alfred. We should have some very nice articles coming out about Allegany County. We have a new group of Writers coming out Sunday, September 8th. Gretchen will be meeting with them at Sprague's then going to Cuba Cheese, Moss Lake, and kayaking down the Genesee River....

Tough Mudders had an excellent turn out. Joe Kent is on vacation so was unable to attend the meeting and give a report on the event, so Gretchen gave a quick update. Our office had a tent at this event. Saturday it was reported there were about 18,000 people in attendance and Sunday there was between 6,000 and 10,000 (Gretchen wasn't sure on the number for Sunday's attendance). There were not any real major injuries only a few minor injuries. Transportation was very organized. Next time the event takes place we will continue to support all efforts to increase the opportunities, that all businesses can capitalize on the event. Kent Farms has signed a 5 year contract and may hold this event a couple times a year. We are not sure the increase of revenue within the county at this time that took place during the weekend, but we will soon be able to report the increased sales tax and lodging tax ,

Legislature Breakfast – if you haven't signed up there is still time. The event will take place September 13. You can register and pay on line or pay the day of the event.

Gretchen thanked everyone who helped work the booth at the Allegany County Fair and the Erie County Fair. Gretchen shared that there had been discussion on a regional level about whether it would be worth our time to set up at the Erie County Fair next year. It has been difficult covering this long event. The GACCC board hopes this event will continue for tourism and will continue to help with coverage. It was determined it would be a good idea to do this as long as we can find coverage to work at the booth. This is a tourism regional decision, and Gretchen will share the board's input.

There will be a Women's expo in October in Rochester on October 4th, 5th and 6th. The expo will include many women's business products. Gretchen will get more information for the group.

The Fire Ball Run sendoff will take place 8:30 am: September 16 from Alfred State Wellsville campus. Three Teams from WNY will be participating this year in FireBall run: Team Allegany, Gretchen Hanchett & Bonnie Yox, Team Alfred State, 3 students and their Professor, Jim Gerbec, and Seneca/Salamanca Team. There will be a big sendoff of the teams with police escort and many students cheering everyone on. Steve Havey was asked to put his TV up at the Wellsville Chamber office so everyone can see live streams. Gretchen will be setting up a U tube channel to also keep everyone updated on the trip through FB.

Gretchen brought several boxes of travel guides, to include the new travel guide and scenic drive guides, for everyone to take back to their businesses for distribution. Gretchen stated the Friendship rest stop goes through several hundred travel guides every few days. Gretchen gave a brief demonstration of the Discover Allegany County website (which will replace the current county website). This website will allow Gretchen & staff to update information instead of having to go through mystic media which is costly. Patience may make some changes but mostly our tourism staff.

Gretchen thanked Joe Hart for everything he did to help with the Manufacturing Golf Tournament. Lufkin's hosted the dinner and breakfast.

Tourism Committee – Rod Biehler reported they are working on a bus tour. Rod mentioned that Heritage Days in Angelica was very successful. CBS did a morning clip that was nice. Rod felt that we may want to consider attending the Cattaraugus Fair next year, even for just a few days. Anne is chair of this ad hoc bus tour committee for the Tourism Committee. It's a small group but coming along very nicely. Anne pulled together a sample of bus tour brochures and attraction surveys. Tour packets will eventually be put together to give to bus companies. Work continues to address what needs to be put in the packets, what Allegany County have to offer etc. Bus Tours are currently coming through the county, Cuba Cheese and Sprague sees many of them. The ad hoc committee will meet immediately after the Tourism Committee meeting.

Amish Trail – Gretchen has a list of Amish people, their businesses and their addresses. It's planned to start contacting and meeting with some of the elders this fall.

Ambassador Committee – Deb Aumick reported our last meeting took place June 24. They have expanded the framework to cover training for the ambassadors. The next meeting will be October 7. Deb has been doing a lot of research on the village of Franklinville....they have a "welcome wagon" and Deb feels we can use some of the information from that. Deb mentioned that she just heard of the "Taste of New York" that takes place on thruway service areas. Different products are sold and Deb feels this would be a great place to promote Allegany County products. There are sections within the stores that say "buy New York products" and list the counties that have products for sale. Deb feels this may be a good place to sell our Bounty of the County boxes. Brian felt if we should look into developing a smaller version of our Bounty of the County box. This would give more options in a cost point.

Education Committee – Judy Hopkins reported the committee has not met for a few months but will be meeting again September 11 @ 9 am. During this meeting the business conference that took place will be discussed along with quarterly educational seminars given by Relph Benefits Advisors.

Leadership Allegany – The class is going very well. As the Leadership Group is growing they are looking at becoming a 501c status. Gretchen stated she is happy for the group but is concerned about great committees leaving the chamber and the sustainability as we build the chamber. Pam Witter is looking into the benefits and requirements of a 501c status and will update us at the next meeting.

Events Committee – Brian stated the last BAH was held August 22, at Sunny Hill Campground owned by Wayne Mingus (new chamber member). He has done an amazing job fixing the campground it now has a heated swimming pool, new basketball court, sewer at all permanent camping spots, 4 Wheeler paths, fishing ponds and more. They are currently in the process of building two restaurants. The Patriot will be writing an article...there were about 15 people in attendance and Brian stated it would be nice to have a better turnout at the BAH's. The next BAH will be October 24, at Kent Farms. The December BAH that has been at the Fountain Bistro in the past will take place at another location due its recent closing. One thought of a location was the Wellsville Country Club, Brian has called but waiting for them to return his call. Another thought was to still use the Fountain Bistro and have it catered...this will be looked into. The date will be

December 11. As soon as the information is firmed up for the October and December BAH it will be sent to all members.

Manufacturing Committee – Dwight Fanton reported he had heard the golf tournament was very successful as they raised \$5,688. Joe Hart and Alan Barber were very instrumental in putting the event together. If Lufkin had not hosted the breakfast and dinner there would not have been as much profit. MCAC plan to hold a golf tournament annually, as it is for a good cause - a scholarship program that supports BOCES students who attends Alfred State College in manufacturing programs. The next meeting will be at Lufkin September 17. The County will sponsor the next meeting in October but unsure of location due to the closing of the Fountain Bistro. Dwight said things are looking good for Dresser Rand and they are looking to hire at least 25 people next year.

New Business: None given.

Good of the Order:

Steve Havey – RidgeWalk run will have the 21st year. The run was started by Rich Shear and is this years Event Chair. The event will take place October 20, pre-registration only – only 1,100 entries will be taken. Events include 5k, 10k, 15 mile trail run; 2, 6, 9, 15 mile walk; 8 mile Mt. bike race; 10, 23 and 40 mile bike ride. Post race festivities will take place at Rich Shear's land which includes music, refreshments, kids activities, health screening, prizes and events. Jones Memorial Hospital provides the food.

Wellsville Chamber is in the process of interviewing health insurance benefit brokers. The current insurance broker has decided they are no longer going to provide broker insurance to chamber due to all the changes taking place in the health care arena. This may give the area chambers to use the same broker and in turn get more benefits from this. Steve wants everyone to understand that anyone who has health insurance through the Wellsville Chamber will not lose their coverage during this transition period. The only thing changing is the advocate for them (broker).

Mike Cook – State Farm is sponsoring “Celebrate Your Drive” it's for young people, 14 and older. They are going to give out big school and little school prizes. First prize is \$100,000 with a concert and second prize is \$100,000 and third prize is 20 -\$25,000. Its' open to any school in Allegany County, but the school has to sign up. For a school to win they will need people to vote for them during a week in October. People would need to log onto a website and vote daily.....the school with the most votes will win. Ten percent of the proceeds must go to the SAD or driver safety program at the school.

Rod Biehler – Currently working on the Emergency Expo that will take place October 5 at Riverwalk. Will have all the fire departments from the county in attendance as well policy agencies, Mercy Flight and working on getting some dignitaries there. Rod thanked Girard for his support for helping at Heritage Days

Linda Hunt – Along with her daughter, Linda Spent the first week of August in Dallas attending IRS tax forum. Linda also stated her daughter has started the Business Entrepreneur Course with ACCORD Corporation.

Doug Frank – Amish Trail - An Amish family, Dan Shyer, from Cuba had a daughter-in-law involved in an accident on 305. They are having benefits every Friday night to help with cost that involves having dinner with the family. Their dinner consists of chicken, mashed potatoes, pies etc. You actually eat with the family inside their homes and typically Amish don't allow this. Doug wasn't sure how long they will hold this event but it is a very neat experience and their money goes to a good cause. The dinner starts around 4:30 pm.

Mike Healey – Was impressed how Tough Mudders turned out. Legislature, Aaron McGraw participated in the Tough Mudders event and had a great time. September is a very busy month, Labor Day Parade in Rushford, Garlic Festival in Cuba, 9/21 & 9/22, Civil War Weekend in Angelica 9/27 – 9/29. A new group has formed in Friendship called Friendship Revitalization Economic Development (FRED).

Donna Bliven – Dr. Pasquale Picco, Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Pulmonology, has relocated his office to 15 Loder Street, Wellsville. He will start seeing new and existing patients in September. Strong Cardiology has moved into space on the third floor at JMH. There is also space on the third floor to bring in specialty services from Rochester. The hospital is excited about bringing new services to the community.

Dwight Fanton – Jack Wood has created a LLC and has formed a group of citizens in Allen town to revitalize the Allen Town School. The LLC was created so they would have insurance coverage as they could work on the building. Both buildings belong to the County and Jack has been working closely with them to clean up both buildings. Hoping to eventually put new businesses into these buildings in the near future.

Girard Kelly – Civil War Weekend will take place Friday, September 27 – 9:30 am – 2 pm Education Day and Saturday 9/28 – Sunday 9/29 open to the public. There will be battles taking place on both days. Great event to come and see.

Lee Gridley – Lee Gridley gave an update on Genesee River Wild. August 23, Genesee River Wild opened second access park. There was a great turnout for the event. The third access park will be opening in Belfast TBA but hopefully before the end of fall this year. The first park was sponsored by Brian Loucks and his company and the second one was sponsored by Walker Marshall Insurance.

Brian Loucks – Tonight Walker Marshall Insurance is sponsoring the Cuba BAH at the Walker Marshall Dye office in Cuba....everyone is welcome. September 7, Cuba Lyons Club Steak and Lobster Bake \$20 per ticket @ Yacht Club on the water. Garlic Festival is 9/21 & 9/22 in Cuba. Anyone interested in helping at the festival contact Brian.

Adjournment: On a motion by Dwight Fanton and seconded by Steve Havey, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Corinna McKnight, Acting Secretary