



Greater Allegany County Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting Minutes June 26, 2013

Present: Deb Aumick, Girard Kelly, Corinna McKnight, Phyllis Gaerte, Steve Havey, Donna Bliven, Michael Cook, Brian Loucks, Lee Gridley, Dan Synakowski, Linda Hunt

Excused: Rod Biehler, Joe Kent, Judy Hopkins, Lee James, Doug Frank

Absent: Bill Hart, Dwight Fanton, Joe Hart, Rob Cole

Legislative Liaison: Mike Healy

Staff: Gretchen Hanchett – Executive Director

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:08 AM by President, Brian Loucks.

Minutes: Change to the minutes – the meeting minutes states the meeting adjourned at 10:40 and it adjourned at 10:24 am. On a motion by Mike Cook and seconded by Deb Aumick, the minutes of May 22, 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 May 31, 2013 was \$39,857.25. There was discussion on bills that were paid and reasoning. The treasurers report is more detailed due to the temp Tourism Assistant (Ann) working with Linda Baker and Lee James to get the accounting function organized. Ann is doing the bank reconciliation and works directly with Gretchen & Lee James Bank signatures have been processed. The following board members can now sign on behalf of the Chamber, Brian Loucks, Lee James and Girard Kelly. On a motion by Lee Gridley and seconded by Steve Havey the Treasurer's report was approved. Motion carried.

President's Update: Brian stated the bylaws will be updated and sent out to the full board for approval. Due to the summer months there will be no meeting for the month of July. The next board meeting will be August 28, 2013. It was decided that if something comes up we will have an Executive Committee Meeting in July.

Executive Directors Update: Gretchen did a presentation for the Allegany County Clerks. It was a good meeting and gave them insight as to what the chamber/Tourism does. Gretchen was asked to do a presentation by the new Alfred Mayor, Justin Griggs at the next Alfred Town board meeting. They are working with rebranding and wanted to know what Gretchen could do to bring new business to their town. She encouraged them to be involved in the Chamber and Tourism Alfred will have businesses open on July 28, 2013 for tourist and I Love NY travel writers visit to tour the town. Gretchen stated she has had businesses ask for discounts to join multiple chambers. Gretchen will speak to businesses at Alfred on July 9 letting them know what they can do to promote their businesses. She will give them a presentation on county chamber and the benefits of joining.

County video program – the videographer was in last week taping and will be back again to do more videoing. There is no charge to the county, but they make their money from businesses who want to be listed on the Chamber web site with a short video ad. Brian had his business videoed. The video will be

listed on the Chamber web site with area business circling it. To become to a sponsor contact Gretchen, the cost was \$4,000 - \$5,000. They videoed at Dresser Rand and was able to film but nothing that had to do with Navy contracts could be video-taped. They also taped hotdog man – Wellsville, cabins, houses, neighbors waving etc. If a business wanted their business videoed they would own the video and be able to put it on their own wage page, use it for trade shows etc. Gretchen will be reaching out to the colleges for some footage that would be placed on the chamber video. Gretchen will ask colleges for some footage of students, 10 second glimpse that will be included in the Chamber video.

Commercial channel Fox 8 will have a 30 second ad. “All in a Day’s Drive” that will run 30 times a month - talks about what is going on in Allegany County such as canoeing, ATV riding, Polly Wog Holier, Balloon Rally etc.

Travel Writers met with Chautauqua County, Executive Director of Development, Chrystal Abram and Gretchen. During their visit they stopped at several areas such as Cuba Cheese Shop, Opera House in Cuba and Sprague.

Gretchen met with the Fireball run teams (Team Allegany, Team Alfred and Team Seneca/Salamanca) June 25, 2013 at Alfred for Fireball run marketing meeting – Alfred’s marketing department will help market our next fireball run. This next Fireball Run will be going out West and we really want to market Allegany County. This year FireBall run starts in Colorado and ends in Riverside California. In 2016 we have been chosen as a destination which will take a lot of collaboration throughout the county. Rolls Royce foundation – press release will be going out – they will be giving Alfred State a \$20,000 scholarship and giving them a car every year for them to work on, sell and they can keep the proceeds.

We have an intern, Katelyn who is working in the office on social media. Katelyn comes to us through the one-stops summer youth employment program.

Sharon Rader and Carrie will be designing the fair booth this year. We are still looking for fair booth volunteers, see Gretchen if you are able to help.

Tourism Committee – Gretchen report the Allegany County travel guide is currently being proofed and waiting for final approval and soon to be sent to the publishers, working to have in time for the fair, July 14. We continue to work with Sun Publishing, on the Hunting and Fishing & Scenic Drive brochures that will be going out soon. There has been a small group that are willing to sit an adhoc committee to organize small bus tours within Allegany County. Rita, Fountain Bistro; David Porter; Gretchen; Lee Gridley (when available) will start working on this committee.

Amish Trail - Bill Dibble brought in a large map so the group can start marking where the Amish Community’s are. Getting assistance from Cattaraugus County – very slow process.

Ambassador Committee – Deb Aumick reported the committee met June 24, started a file on materials that will be used for the Ambassadors. She would like to have shirts for the Ambassador’s down the road so they are easily identified. Also the committee is working on a county map that shows Allegany County points of interest. The committee has started a frame work for training for the Ambassador’s program, which will eventually be given to the Education Committee for them to develop.

Leadership Allegany – Phyllis reported everything is going well, the judicial day went very well. They were at the jail, received a tour. The groups within the cohort are working on great service projects this year. Leadership Allegany is partnering with Leadership Cattaraugus to offer the first annual Leadership Conference that will be held August 8, 2013 at the Walsh Science Building on the campus of St. Bonaventure University. The conference will take place 8:30 am – 2 pm and the cost will be \$49 per person which includes breakfast and lunch. A save the date flier was passed around for the next “Make a Difference Day” that will take place October 26, 2013. This is in collaboration with Alfred State College,

Houghton College and Alfred University. They want to help communities and organizations with projects they have and can provide 3 to 50 students for projects as needed.

Events Committee - Phyllis reported the committee met June 24 and worked on BAHs. The next BAH will be at the Nitros game Thursday, June 27 @ 5 pm at the Wellsville Elementary School, no cost to attend. Need people to volunteer to represent the Chamber if anyone is interested. This event has never been represented well by the Chamber. The next BAH will take place in August with more details to follow. The committee would like to hold a fall theme event, maybe at Kent Farms and then our joint chamber BAH in December with a date set for December 11 at Fountain Bistro. The committee is also working on the Legislative Breakfast that will take place Friday, September 13.

Manufacturing Committee – Gretchen reported the committee met last week at Dresser Rand. Legislatures showed up at this meeting to hear what the committee is doing, the projects taking place. They explained the connection between educators and manufacturing. Joe has mentioned the scholarship fund. It will be processed through the Area Foundation Fund. The scholarship is called the Ian Bole Memorial Scholarship Fund and was started by Alan Barber and his sister. They started it with a \$5,000 personal donation. Kelly, mother of Ian Bole is going to give a \$2,500 donation and her place of employment, Constellation will match that \$2,500.00. The Manufacturing Council is looking to raise matching funds from a golf tournament organizing. The scholarship is for a student from the career technical center Belmont who will attend Alfred State in the manufacturing or engineering . The scholarship is in memory of Ian Bole. Gretchen stated Dresser Rand was planning on also giving to the scholarship fund. The tentative date for the golf tournament is August 5, 2013. The pricing is currently being finalized. Gretchen brought this event to the Events Committee – Phyllis expressed concern that August 5 is around so many other golf tournaments and to add one more may not allow for a good turn out.

Steve Martinelli is designing a web page that will include Dresser Rand and Lufkin and talk about manufacturing that is taking place in Allegany County. It will include links to each business etc. Lee James and Gretchen pulled together information for Congressman Reed's office that he will read today, June 26, on the floor in Washington, announcing the expansion of Lufkin's to include job expansion and officially congratulating them.

New Business: Brian mentioned that we have currently been using a temp in the office, Roxanne (Ann) Jedraszczak, assisting Gretchen. We have advertised for this position about a month ago for either 2 part-time or 1 full-time. The Executive Committee met this morning to review all the resumes, along with Roxanne's. The Executive Committee felt Roxanne would be an excellent selection for a full-time position. She was interviewed this morning by the Executive Committee and there were no concerns. She is very professional, has done a great job getting the membership list organized, working on brochures, photo shop and done an excellent job with quick books. The Executive Committee is recommending to the board that we offer Ann the full-time position. On a motion by Steve Havey and seconded by Girard Kelly the approval to offer the position of Tourism Specialist, to Roxanne Jedraszczak was approved. Motion carried.

Good of the Order:

Donna Sweet – Save the Date was passed around - ACAF is hosting its 1st Annual Trivia Night to Benefit the General Scholarship Fund and the Allegany Fund. The event will take place September 20 @ 5:30 pm. For more information go to director@alleganycountyareafoundation.org

Deb Aumick – Senator Young is finally done in Albany, Senate passed a slurry of bills. She will now be much more visible in the district.

Girard Kelly – Angelica Car Show will take place Thursday, July 25 @ 6 pm. All the businesses in town will be open also.

Mike Cook – The office has grown – out of 17,749 his office is ranked top 11% nationwide for new auto customers. .

Dan Synakowski – Wellsville Country Club is financially stable a lot of improvement to the course, new golf carts, maintenance updates. Saturday and Sunday afternoon is typically the best time to play. The restaurant and kitchen have been updated, the bar areas has been refurbished, food menu and wine list has been updated.

Donna Bliven – Jones Memorial Hospital Golf Tournament is at the Country Club, June 28, tee off is 1:30 pm.

Mike Healey – Celtic Events went very well for the first time, attended the Cuba Dairy Day Parade good turnout, one of the best. Legislatures Clam Bake will be July 26 from 1 pm – 6 pm @ Island Park - \$35/person, see any Legislature for ticket or contact legislature's clerk's office at the county building. Amy Days Sales will take place July 12 & July 13. Friendship Freedom Fair will take place July 13.

Phyllis Gaerte – Houghton is welcoming thousands of people for conferences. There a number of faculty and staff coming on board for the fall semester. Working on a packet that can be given to each family so that they know what resources are available to them.

Steve Havey – Next BAH will be 6/26/13 from 5:00 – 7pm @ Happy Paws Pet Spa & Resort which is a new business located in Standards. Ashlee Walker is the owner and she recently graduated from the ACCORD Business Class. July 16, 2013 @ 6 pm, Best Pizza & Wing Contest @ the library lawns. There will be free pizza and wings. This event is sponsored by KZ102 Rod Biehler and the Wellsville Chamber. July 18, the Wellsville Chamber will have a Golf Tournament - first prize for hole in one is a new Harley Davidson motorcycle, courtesy of Mike Cook; State Farm and Napa Auto Parts. Balloon Rally week July 20 main street festival. Still have spaces available. Steve also mentioned Senator Young recently assisted him with an issue he had and she helped out immediately, very pleased with the results.

Brian Loucks – Cuba chamber: June 30 Chicken Barbeque. July 17 BAH will take place at the Opera House.

Adjournment: On a motion by Dan Synakowski and seconded by Steve Havey, the meeting was adjourned at 10:14 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Corinna McKnight, Acting Secretary