



P. O. BOX 261 – ORWELL, OHIO 44076 --- www.orwellgv-chamber.com

Minutes – February 25, 2014

The Orwell – Grand Valley Area Chamber of Commerce met for a regular monthly meeting at the American Legion Hall in Orwell, Ohio.

Members in attendance were Diana Ristimaki; Bob Denihan of B& S Printing; Kevin Mitchell of Middlefield Bank; Stuart Walker of Davis True Value; Ed Sutliff of Western Reserve Drafting LLC; Jack Nettis of Orwell Village; Dan Tanner of Grand Valley Public Library and Tanner Customs; Todd Thurber and Doris Cook of the Gazette; Andrew C. Davis – Knapp of Grand Valley Public Library, Shawn Holmes of Wollam – Grand Valley Insurance, Mary Lou Motylewicz of the Orwell American Legion Auxiliary Post 719; Gwen Biennas of Gwen’s Catering.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by President Diana Ristimaki. She led the Pledge of Allegiance. Jack Nettis offered a prayer.

A motion was made by Kevin Mitchell to accept the minutes from the February 4, 2014 meeting with corrections; Stuart Walker seconded: passed.

A motion was made by Bob Denihan to accept the treasurer’s report; Jack Nettis seconded. The special event income was \$500.00 reimbursement from the Kelly Miller Circus for landscaping services. The \$24.23 expense was for food sent to Jay Reider at Nancy’s death. Motion passed.

Kevin Mitchell, the treasurer, advised us that Peggy Bottoms went to the ACCVB (Ashtabula County Convention and Visitors Bureau) to secure a \$1000 grant toward the festival. We will include the ACCVB logo wherever the festival is mentioned to promote better relations.

Kevin Mitchell prepared a budget for 2014. He reported after reviewing the minutes of 2013 found we did motion in January to pay \$1000.00 toward the summer concert series.

That payment was never made. This nullifies a motion made last month to pay \$500 for 2013 and \$500 for 2014. Kevin will immediately cut a check for \$1000 for 2013. A motion was made to accept the budget as presented by Stuart Walker, Andrew Davis – Knapp seconded. The motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP – Thirty-nine (39) are paid.

CIRCUS – Bob Denihan -- The Kelly Miller Circus asked to return. They set Monday, July 21, 2014 with two (2) shows at 4:30 and 7:30. Bob advised a school board meeting will be held on March 17, 2014. Diana and Stuart will attend seeking permission to use the school grounds for the circus. The circus wants \$290.00 in earnest money when the contract is signed.

FESTIVAL – Stuart Walker – coordinator. Monthly meetings will meet at alternating locations. These are the Legion Hall and the Grand Valley library. Brett Allen, the emcee who we hired last year is available this year. He seeks a payment of \$1750.00 for services. Todd Thurber motioned to engage Mr. Allen; Bob Denihan seconded; passed.

COUNTY CHAMBERS – The Home Show will be held at Ashtabula Towne Square (Mall) on March 7, 8, and 9, 2014. Gary Hunter will cover taping for vendor location on Thursday; Ed Sutliff will cover setup of vendors on Thursday evening; Diana Ristimaki and Andrew Davis – Knapp will serve as Chamber representatives on Friday; and Andrew will return on Sunday with a library staff member. Door prizes are requested.

WINE & CHEESE – Gwen Biennas and Peggy Dedek – co-chairs. A date has been set for Sunday, June 8, 2014 from 2 – 5:00 pm tentatively to be held at The Old Brick. An entry fee of \$15.00 per person will be asked. A fee of \$10.00 for only wine or cheese will be available. A booth is planned to offer food to be sold by the Chamber. Presale tickets are planned.

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH – March – Wollam Grand Valley Insurance
April – Till the End of Time. We, as a Chamber, will pay \$360.00 to buy monthly ads for the Businesses of the Month in The News.

ACTIVITY CALENDAR – Contact Gwen Biennas for postings to the calendar.

OLD BUSINESS:

Stuart Walker motioned to be a “gold sponsor” for the Orwell Village 2014 Concert Series; Mary Lou Motylewicz seconded; passed with one (1) abstention.
Jack Nettis advised July 23, 2014 will be Chamber Night. The village will invite all of the Chamber members to attend with government officials and local manufacturers.

NEW BUSINESS:

We have been invited to the Pymatuning Area Chamber Expo on May 15, 2014. This will be held at the Pymatuning High School. It will start at 5:00 pm with a business to business meet and greet. At 6:00 pm, the doors open to the public.

A motion was made by Mary Lou Motylewicz to change our name to the "GRAND VALLEY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE". The motion was seconded by Stuart Walker. A decision was tabled so the executive board can meet with an attorney. This will require contacting the Secretary of State of Ohio to be fully legal.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Orwell Village will host a Soup Cookoff on March 23, 2014
First Responders will hold a Chinese auction at the same time.
Five K Run sponsored in conjunction with Country Neighbor on May 10, 2014.

The Legion will have a Spaghetti Dinner on March 20, 2014
The Legion – April 12, 2014-- a birthday celebration. The organization is 67 years old.
The Legion will have a Spaghetti Dinner on April 17, 2014
The Legion will sponsor an Easter Egg Hunt on April 19, 2014 at 10:00 am at the Community Park.

The Rotary will move from Rock Creek to Grand Valley. Their first meeting will be at Country Neighbor on March 6 at 7:30 am.

The library now offers "self checkout" units at the high school.
The library has a new website.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Sutliff – Secretary

The next meeting will be held on March 25, 2014 at the American Legion Post 719 in Orwell @ 5:30 pm.