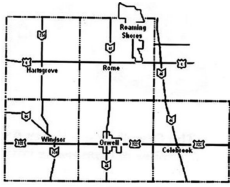


ORWELL – GRAND VALLEY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



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

Minutes – February 4, 2014

The Orwell – Grand Valley Area Chamber of Commerce met for a regular monthly meeting at the Orwell Village Offices at 179 W. Main, Orwell, Ohio. The meeting scheduled for Jan. 27 was postponed by weather.

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 of Gazette; Gary Hunter from the Conversation Station; Mary Lou Motylewicz of the Orwell American Legion Auxiliary Post 719; Gwen Biennas of Gwen's Catering; and Lisa Dunlap, the new manager of Key Bank. Guests were Katie Baum, Rosalyn Baum, and Peggy Dedek.

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 November 26, 2013 meeting with a correction. The dates of the HOME SHOW are March 7, 8, and 9, 2014. Gwen Biennas seconded; passed.

A motion was made by Ed Sutliff to accept the treasurer's report; Gary Hunter seconded. A discussion about an item of \$120 was a bill from Signsations. Motion passed.

Kevin Mitchell, the treasurer, presented one (1) bill from the Visitor's Bureau and two (2) from Cindee's Flowers. One of the flower bills was questioned. Ed Sutliff motioned to pay two (2) of the bills and the third if documentation was produced; Jack Nettis seconded; passed.

The Mardi Gras ticket for St. Mary's was delivered. Diana Ristimaki will attend to represent the Chamber.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP – Sixty-six (66) members – thirty-three (33) are paid.

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

ORWELL – Concerts are planned for the summer of 2014. First Responders soup cookoff for March 23. 5k Run in conjunction with Country Neighbor on May 10. A bicycle race will be held on Saturday during the festival.

COUNTY CHAMBERS – The Home Show will be held at Ashtabula Towne Square (Mall) on March 7, 8, and 9, 2014.

CIRCUS – Bob Denihan -- The Kelly Miller Circus asked to return. They set Monday, July 21, 2014 as their show date.

FESTIVAL – Stuart Walker – coordinator. Monthly meetings will meet at alternating locations. These are the Legion Hall, the Grand Valley library, and Key Bank on the last Thursdays of each month. The next meeting is February 27, 2014 – 6:00 pm. at the Legion Hall. Several small committees have been set. The festival will be behind the police station again this year.

BUSINESS OF THE MONTH – February – D. N. Construction – **Dan & Lorie Niewiadomski** of Windsor. An article will appear in THE NEWS each 3rd week of each month on the Chamber page.

NOACC – There will be a networking event at the Home Show at the IX Center in Cleveland on Feb. 12, 2014. Ed Sutliff will attend to represent Grand Valley.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – Cancelled for 2014

WEBSITE: Andrew Davis and Dan Tanner – co-chairs. They ask that each member carefully review what is submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

It was brought to our attention by Kevin Mitchell that we never motioned or paid any money to Orwell Village for the 2013 Concert Series. Stuart Walker motioned to pay \$500.00 as a retroactive payment for 2013 and another \$500.00 toward the 2014 Concert Series pending our upcoming budget review; Gary Hunter seconded. Passed with one (1) no vote.

Meeting schedule survey –

A survey was sent out. Respondents elected to maintain the last Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm. As a way of encouraging attendance Stuart Walker motioned that we move our meeting to the Legion Hall for our February 25 meeting. It will be at 5:30; Bob Denihan seconded; passed

The Chamber officers were sworn into office at a meeting with Dave Hartz, President of the Orwell Village Council on Thursday, January 17, 2014.

We motioned to donate a basket for a Chinese Auction to be \$75.00 (maximum) for the Wounded Warriors. The First Responders chose to decline it at this time.

We motioned to send a voucher to The Old Brick to repair the sign in front of the building. That was to be \$500.00 at a maximum. We heard that the sign was hit by a car and the insurance company paid the repair in full. The members of The Old Brick thanked us but declined our gift.

The Christmas party had a loss of \$60.00 due to reservations set, but not used. Alex Taipale was the featured musician. He was paid \$75.00.

The Chamber has a page in The News published by Gazette Printing. It is the third week of each month. We seek support from the membership to buy advertising on that page. It will feature an article each month about the Chamber.

NEW BUSINESS:

Member deaths –

Nancy Reider, our former president of Who? What? When? and Where? Stuart Walker motioned to give \$50 to the APL in her honor; Bob Denihan seconded; passed.

Kathy Burkley – Pine Lakes Campground – Ed Sutliff motioned to send \$25.00 to the Geauga Ladies Auxillary; Gwen Biennas seconded; passed.

Guest – Katie Baum spoke. She is the current Miss Grand Valley. She is seeking financial support to attend the National American Miss Ohio in Columbus, Ohio on July 20, 2014. This program is based on speaking and public presentation of ideas. She has some sponsorship, but needs \$600.00 as a total. Katie will prepare a letter for our next meeting.

Adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,