



Divide Chamber of Commerce

Monthly Meeting Minutes:

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Historic Midland Depot

Board Role Call:

Attendance

Name:

Peter Hintze: RDK Small Engine Repair: President present

Bob Kowell: RDK Small Engine Repair: Director present

David Martinek: RE by Dave Martinek: Vice President present

Joe Kain: Ancestral Arts: Director present

Lee Taylor: Edward Jones Investments: Director present

Kate Adams: secretary: present

Teddy: Ancestral Arts: Mascot present

Greg Smith: Treasurer Absent

Lisa Lee: Creativelee Designed : Member present

Bunny Sabula: Member present

***Members present:**

Bunny Sabula

Lisa Lee

6:12 pm: Meeting called to order.

Peter inquired as to whether there were any issues with previously submitted meeting minutes. Vote to approve minutes, all in favor.

*Introduction by Peter re personal preferences for meetings ,outline for the year and chamber member participation. Would like to see meetings be more concise, less drawn out with clear goals. Suggests that there seems to be less member participation with events, meetings and community outreach. Recommends that each board member/director reach out to existing members to suggest a more direct participation.

OLD BUSINESS:

Website issues. Lee has not had much success with being able to organize any assistance from Woodland Park High School web design classes. Current website does not offer much in the way of successful business searches broken down by category. Bunny and Peter both agree that new website design is essential, moving forward. Bunny volunteers to attempt some research with web designers in the area. Peter advised he would contact Lone Wolf web company.

Meal expense plan for meetings will remain unchanged, when Lisa brought up. All appear to be in agreement.

NEW BUSINESS

Lee proposed that there be lighting on the Divide Sign. Group consensus that solar lighting would be most economical, with light “shining down.” Lee will consult with Carl Anderson, Harbor Freight regarding options. All present agree that proposed light would be beneficial.

Joe discussed possibility of an event similar to CinD, but having an event in July that involves craft booths, etc. Lisa suggested trying to tie such an event to the community yard/garage sale.

Chamber Member Participation

Peter brought up that as membership to Chamber remains low, other member participation appears even lower. Inquired as to the benefits provided to members and how they could be improved upon? David noted that the Divide Chamber is currently unable to provide many of the same offerings/benefits that the Woodland Park Chamber is able to provide and that perhaps current members aren't getting enough from membership (advertisement, kickbacks, etc.) Group discussion as to decrease in membership renewals, lack of assistance with events and fundraisers. Peter noted as an example, that there are no current veterinary clinics that are members. He recommends that all directors reach out to as many current members and potential business members as possible, either with face to face interaction, or phone call. Perhaps each individual present at meeting making at least two phone calls in the next month? Lee suggested bringing the names of 5-10 businesses to the next meeting, as suggestions for new membership. Perhaps form a compiled list from those suggestions and then forming a “divide and conquer” approach? Will re-visit at next meeting.

KITE FLIGHT

Lee advised that he's currently working on a timeline draft/plan for upcoming Kite Flight. Peter suggested that Lee and David reach out to others for cooperation with planning of event, such as the Kiwanis organization. Any interest from young members within Chamber to help with this event? Peter inquired as to whether there could be any more revenue brought in from Kite event, such as selling kites? Lee advised that most of the kites are donated and that the event seems to be more of a community outreach at present than a fundraising situation. Group inquiries as to whether booths for food vendors, or tying yard/garage sale to event? Possibility that with increased group/member participation, that funds could be raised, along with possible Chamber supported "tables" and member donations? Current table offering only Chamber merchandise seems financially insufficient? Will re-visit plans and ideas at next meeting.

ADDITIONAL FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Lee, David and Bunny discussed ideas of both increasing participation with current and non members by having additional "mixer-type" functions. Perhaps having a pancake breakfast, afternoon BBQ or evening business mixer. No restriction to having only events in Divide? Suggestions for other, larger locales to include: campgrounds, Florissant fire station, the Masons Lodge or Community Center. Possible that events such as these could drive up membership from businesses located outside of Divide (Florissant, Lake George, etc.)

FINANCIALS

Unavailable this month.

ADDITIONAL THOUGHT/MENTIONS

Peter noted that there should probably be a replacement for his vacant position on the board. Any interest from existing Chamber members?

GOALS FOR NEXT MEETING

Bring new suggestions for business membership/renewals. Group to brainstorm additional fundraising ideas/possibilities. Outlining additional examples of how the Chamber membership enhances the community and benefits businesses.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:06 pm

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 6:00 pm, The Historic Midland Depot in Divide

Respectfully submitted:

Kate Adams

Secretary, Divide Chamber of Commerce