

EDINBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

January 28, 2010

In attendance:

Cynthia Morris, Sue Horne, Donna Smith, Michelle Heier, Fran Romeo, Jeff Clinedinst, Justin Wightman, Tracy Miller and Rick Austin, a guest of Fran Romeo.

Meeting called to order by: Cynthia Morris at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes: Ms. Morris approved the November minutes.

Treasurer's Report: none given. It was discussed that Ms. Heier would remain treasurer for the Chamber, but would have to check with Dan Harshman to make sure there are no conflicts of interest since Ms. Heier is the current treasurer for The Town of Edinburg.

New membership: Ms. Heier stated that the Chamber has 1 new member as of 1/2010. The new member is an accountant business in income tax services in the state of Texas. The business is Gonzalez & Arrambide.

County Chamber: Ms. Romeo gave an update on the Shenandoah County Chamber Advisory Group Meeting. The 2010-Yard Crawl will be on August 14th. Kernstown would like to become a part of the crawl this year. Ms. Romeo also stated that the Yard Crawl will have its own website as well as a blog. There was discussion regarding more space availability at the Mill. There was also mention of possibly having two yard crawls, one in the spring and one in the summer. This will be discussed at the next County Chamber meeting, which are held the second Wednesday of every month at 9:00 a.m.

Website Design: There was much discussion regarding the final payment that has been requested by Lauren Culler. It was agreed upon by all members present that the final payment should not be paid to Ms. Culler until all aspects of the website are working properly. There were complaints that businesses were not listed, Fran Romeo & Co. and Linda Duffel are not listed. Mr. Clinedinst stated that there were broken links on the website as well. Ms. Smith commented on the link for New Business Information that the website still states that this is under construction. Ms. Miller stated that the information for this link should be all information regarding becoming a member of the Edinburg Area Chamber of Commerce. It was agreed upon by members present that there will be a meeting between Ms. Miller, Ms. Morris, Ms. Heier or Ms. Embrey and Ms. Culler to discuss these issues. Ms. Miller will make the arrangements for the meeting.

Banquet: Ms. Miller mentioned that the banquet should be held at Ms. Morris's home. It was discussed by members present of changing it from a banquet to something different. It was suggested by Ms. Horne of calling it a Networking Night, which would give businesses from all around the area a chance to meet one another and become familiar with local businesses. The members present seemed to like Ms. Horne's suggestions. It was also mentioned that maybe the word "banquet" was deterring attendance at past banquets and awards ceremonies and that is why the change is being proposed. There were discussions of having the Networking Night at a local restaurant that are members of the Chamber.

Board of Directors: Ms. Morris approached Jeff Clinedinst of becoming a board member. Mr. Clinedinst said that he would like to continue to come to the meetings, but will talk more with Ms. Morris before committing to the board.

Victorian Christmas in Edinburg: All members present agreed that this was one of the best turn outs that the parlor tours have ever had in years past. Ms. Morris recommended changing the start time from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. It was reported that those attending the tour stated that the 4:00 p.m. start time was interfering with business hours. Ms. Horne and Ms. Smith were in agreement with this recommendation. Ms. Miller stated she was very pleased with the turn out as well as Ms. Bennett, of the Law office of Patricia A. Bennett. They both feel that this was a great opportunity for the community to become more familiar with the local businesses in Edinburg, and would be willing to participate again this year. Ms. Miller also gave the idea of turning Edinburg into a light show, with everyone participating along Main Street as well as Stony Creek Blvd. It was also stated that if any of the elderly residents in Edinburg would like to participate but is not able to decorate, then maybe the Chamber members could help them out. Some members mentioned that maybe the scouts could help to earn a badge.

Summer Concerts: Ms. Horne and Ms. Smith will be meeting in February to discuss the concerts, they will have a report for Chamber members at the March meeting. The concerts are to be held in July and August. Ms. Romeo suggested a talent contest, Ms. Morris stated they had tried that in the past and it was disastrous. Ms. Miller stated that she could provide a profit and loss statement to Ms. Horne regarding past concerts.

Advertising: There was much discussion among members present with regards to advertising in the Northern Virginia Daily. The Northern Virginia Daily is now offering an online advertising section in different places of the newspaper. The cheapest advertising is \$35.00 per month with two rotations. Ms. Miller recommended waiting on doing this type of advertising due to budgeting issues, all other members present agreed with this. Ms. Romeo made motion, Ms. Smith seconded, motion carried. Mr. Clinedinst recommended linking all sites together.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Michelle F. Heier