

EDINBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

September 29, 2011

In attendance:

Steve Wood, Cynthia Morris, Michelle Heier, Donna Smith, Bill Smith and Justin Wightman.

Meeting called to order by: Steve Wood at 5:35 p.m.

Minutes: Steve Wood approved the July meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Heier reported that the Chamber currently has \$1,979.31 in funds. Ms. Heier also gave a complete breakdown from the summer concert. The total amount for donations was \$2,112.20 and after expenses of \$863.93, the Chamber profited \$1,248.27. Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and was second by Mr. Wightman.

New membership: No Report

County Chamber: It was discussed that a new person would have to be appointed for this position as Ms. Romeo is moving out of the area. There were also concerns regarding the Chamber facebook page as Ms. Romeo is the only one who has access to this. It was agreed by all present that Ms. Romeo will be contacted and that information be given to Ms. Heier and Ms. Embrey for monitoring in the Town Office.

Website Design: No report given.

Networking Socials: Mr. Wood asked when the next social will be. There was much discussion on this and the members present decided to hold off on this for awhile.

Yard Crawl: No report given.

Board of Directors: Ms. Morris reported that Tracy Miller does still want to be on the Board of Directors. It was agreed that the Board of Directors would like to do something in memory of Ms. Miller's father who recently passed away. Ms. Morris made a motion to make a donation to the Mill, second by Mr. Smith.

Christmas Parade: Mr. Wood reported that he will start working on the parade line up next week. Ms. Smith requested that they be reimbursed for candy canes to be given out during the Christmas Parades for advertisement for the parlor tours. Mr. Wood made a motion to authorize Ms. Smith to purchase what she needs and was second by Ms. Morris.

Victorian Christmas in Edinburg: Ms. Morris handed out a list of those that have been confirmed for the parlor tours this year. They are; The Edinburg Mill, Edinburg Renaissance Bed and Breakfast (Train Theme), Stephanie and Wes Pence (Christmas Tree Theme), Sharon Hollar (Miriam Irvin's house on S. High Street), St. John's United Methodist Church, Karen Wightman, Beverly Scanlan (downstairs only) and Belgravia - Liz Morgan. Ms. Morris has three that have not committed yet and they are; Dori Dawson, Joy Guisto and Genny Nixon.

The following is where the parlor tour tickets can be purchased; Edward Jones, Piccadilly House, Town Office, Wightman Insurance, Edinburg Village Shop (until 11/30/11) and at The Mill prior to the tours beginning. Mr. Smith suggested that each participant on the parlor tours be made aware of those that have chosen a theme, so there are no repeats. Mr. and Mrs. Smith also reported there will be a book signing at their location during the tours. Mr. Wood asked members present about making the wreaths again this year as a fundraiser. All members

present agreed and voted that this is not an option this year. Ms. Morris made a motion not to do the wreaths and was second by Ms. Smith. All members felt it was too time consuming and the profits were not that great. Mr. Smith mentioned about another type of fundraiser, such as a Christmas ornament. Mr. Smith asked about the coins that the Town has for sale. He thought that would be an option to turn those into ornaments and have for sale at a few of the homes on the tours. There was some discussion about this and Mr. Smith asked Ms. Heier to find out the total of coins available and if they are able to have color added to them. It was also mentioned that the cost of this could be raised during the tours to help offset the cost of turning the coins into ornaments. Mr. Smith will do some research and get back with the committee on his findings.

Summer Concerts: Ms. Smith will provide notes from the last meeting regarding the summer concerts at the next Chamber meeting. Ms. Heier reported that the band, Just 4 Fun is interested in performing for the 2012 concert. Members present thought it was a good idea to have a different band each summer and would like to hear this band before committing them to perform. Ms. Heier said she would make contact with Richard Ritter, band member, and find out how the members can hear some of their songs.

Auditing Committee: No report.

Finance Committee: No report.

Advertising: Mr. Wightman mentioned that he understood for Laughlin's Auction allowing the Chamber to put up the bulletin board, that the Chamber would refund their membership fee. Ms. Heier said she would research this, and if that is the finding then a refund will be issued.

Brochures: No report.

New Business: Mr. Wood asked for a report on who attended the Countywide Chamber Meeting on combining the Towns and County as one. Mr. Smith and Mr. Wightman reported that they both attended the meeting together and Mr. Smith gave a detailed report. Mr. Smith indicated that Randy Collins, CEO of Frederick and Clark Counties and Winchester City Chamber of Commerce was present at this meeting and he was very informative and positive on this process. Mr. Collins recommended that each Town have a representative to form a committee that goes through the pro's and con's of combining the Chambers. He also reported that Shenandoah County is the only County in the area that has not combined with the Towns. There would be better representation of businesses by combining them. He gave examples of other Towns that combined with their County Chamber, and today they are thriving. Mr. Collins also stated that legally the "guts" of the documents needs to be made to put this together, this is also the time that each Town needs to make sure that what they have agreed upon is in writing. The documents will be put together by the consensus. Mr. Collins also recommended that each Chamber appoint someone to represent them throughout this process, that way they can relay all questions and concerns and have a say in the legal documents. Mr. Wightman has agreed to represent Edinburg and Mr. Smith will be the alternate. Mr. Wood expressed concern in dissolving the by-laws. It was made clear at the September 14th County meeting that this is still in the preliminary stages and nothing has been set yet. There was discussion about concerns that Edinburg would be lost and not recognized if the Chambers combined, but Mr. Smith indicated that all Towns would have proper recognition, due to the size of Shenandoah County. Mr. Collins made the comment that everyone associates Shenandoah County as "the valley" and everyone is aware of all the Towns that are in the County. Mr. Wightman stated that Mr. Collins said anyone can start a Chamber, as long as it is done legally.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Michelle F. Heier

