

Watertown Area Chamber of Commerce
Minutes
May 19, 2010
(Watertown Community Center)
www.watertown-chamber.com

The meeting was called to order by President Kyle McDonough. There were 22 present. Introductions were made. Meal catered by Subway.

- Signs have been posted directing traffic to Watertown. A special thank you to Bruce Johnson and the Task Force Committee for all the work done to achieve this goal.
- Please pass along any construction concerns you hear about to either school or city leaders so they may be addressed.
- A task force has been created to promote business in Watertown, especially during a time when access might be difficult. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday June 2, 11:00am at the Watertown Community Center. All members of the community are invited and encouraged to attend.
- A motion to host Paul Diethelm and the Xmas Spectacular show on December 26, 2010 was passed unanimously.
- Steven Wallner announced the city has pledged \$2000.00 to the Keep It Open Task Force, and the Lions have pledged \$750.00.

Committees Reports:

Retail Committee: Scott Cassidy-Chair (designed to come up with new ideas to support local businesses.) The Friday of Rails to Trails will have a "Watertown Hold-'Em" event similar to the Holiday Open House. Each business will determine their own hours, with a drawing for shoppers who collect a playing card at each business. Five cards are needed to enter the drawing, with the best poker hand also winning a prize. Please contact Terri Dammann to participate. Flyers listing participants and advertising the event will be distributed. Additionally, Frontier will donate hot dogs, chips and a beverage to be sold during the open house from 11-1 at the city park. Please contact Scott Cassidy to volunteer to help.

A volunteer is also needed to call and schedule additional volunteers to sit in the flush tank. Flush tank hours are 5:00-8:00pm on Friday, and 1:00-6:00pm Saturday. Please contact Heather Kary for more information.

The city wide garage sales event is scheduled for May 20-22. Registration forms can be found on the Chamber's website.

Ambassador Committee: Judy Vanderlinde-Chair (welcoming and inviting new businesses to the Chamber of Commerce and to Watertown, and to keep current members active in the Chamber.) If you know of any new businesses in the area please let Judy Vanderlinde or Sue Burke know.

Educator's Dinner Committee: Abbie McDonald-Chair (plan and perform the educator's dinner, September 2010.)

Performing Arts Committee: Ken Grotbo- Chair (coordinate with Watertown-Mayer Performing Arts center to sponsor events.) The Chamber passed a motion to host the X-mas Spectacular again this year on December 26, 2010.

"Keep It Open" Task Force Cordination Committee:- Co-Chairs Nicholas Hoese, and Rose Rosdahl (coordinate with the community "Keep It Open" task force) Road signs have been purchased and placed to direct traffic to downtown Watertown. Herald Journal is offering special pricing to businesses needing their own signage. A map of detour routes and local through streets will be published with the Herald Journal. Please contact Bruce Johnson if you are interested; ad prices start at \$39.00. Flyers with alternate route maps are also being printed.

Steven Wallner updated the Chamber on the search for a city Administrator.

- Ads have been placed asking for applicants. Deadline for resume submission is May 28, 2010.
 - 33 applications have been received so far.
 - Interviews to start in mid June.
 - Interviews to be conducted by a board consisting of Council members, city employees, and community members.
 - Hope to have person hired by end of July.

County Commissioner Tim Lynch and County Engineer Lyndon Robjent presented current and future road construction plans.

- History of previous construction in the area.
- Decision to update roadways now.
- Project will cost approximately \$2.9 million dollars to complete.
 - Bids have been submitted ranging from \$2.5-\$2.9 million.
- City task force researched and made roundabout decision.
- Future plans for bridge and road updates.
 - Funding requested
 - River crossing study to begin in July.
- Links are posted on the city and county web sites showing detour routs.
- Please contact City Engineer Dave Martini with any concerns.
- Tim Lynch additionally spoke on other county issues.
 - Hollywood Township radio tower to be shortened.
 - County adult use ordinance passed
 - Overall property values in county have dropped 4.6% on assessed values.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm

Next meeting: June16 at the Watertown Community Center with Luce Line Lodge catering.