

MINUTES

April 8, 2009

Chowchilla District Chamber of Commerce

Civic Center Public Meeting Room

12:00 Noon

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Janet Scroggins at 12:17 p.m. Present were: Vice President Moss, Treasurer Fall, Directors Chavez, Flanagan, Ginsburg, Jones and Pistoresi. Absent were: Past President Ahmed and Director Harrell.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Section 2

First Five Madera representatives: Chenira Black, Exec. Dir. First Five Madera County; Dana Tru, Madera County Office of Education Director of Early Care & Education; and Erika Cornelson, new Coordinator Chowchilla Family Resource Center presented the Board with information regarding their new 4th Street building and the benefits of the First Five program.

Administrator Red gave updates regarding the City:

- Pedro Davila is opening an Italian food restaurant at his original location across from Wilson School
- Kentucky Fried Chicken/Taco Bell have opened; hopefully doing better than during start up
- Notice activity at the old Town & County location, someone did buy the business, not the property; they are starting from scratch to put a modern grocery store in the location. They are grocery store owners and have experience in the Merced area.
- Council is getting ready to do Goal Setting
- Budget is extremely tight and reviews and planning will be earlier in May so Council knows where City stands in June
- Bob Silva Ford advised he is not closed but repair area is closed and minimal staff; he is working on possible prospects on the business;
- The Planning Dept. is working with an industrial prospect to come to town and at the next level if we hear from them will be able to share more information but location is planned in the Highway 99 corridor
- Regarding the 26 Robertson building the restraining order was not successful and the topic is back on the 4/13 Council Agenda regarding its status; follow up meeting with state for the Grant scheduled; which is still on its last review and separate from the discussion with the Historical Society.
- Madera Animal County support group “Friends of the Animals” and people in Chowchilla regarding possible updating the Chowchilla animal shelter; a great need due to housing situation and animals being abandoned.
- Director Pistoresi asked regarding the office move; Administrator Red advised it should be around May or June. Administrator Red will coordinate the move with Manager Flanagan. Manager Flanagan noted the Board has an Office Move Committee assigned at the Strategic Planning Meeting; Directors Flanagan and Jones along with the Manager.

Director Ginsburg offered a compliment to Administrator Red and the City for their efforts in advertising Chowchilla. She is receiving telephone calls from persons outside the community who see information or hear about events in Chowchilla.

Manager Flanagan noted that Monday, 4/13, Administrator Red and she were meeting with Dan Cunnings, Executive Director of the YSVB, to discuss partnering to gain more visibility of Chowchilla events and activities.

Director Moss commented that he received a call from Dale Thomas that the Historical Society received word that all the palm trees along 233 are designated as historical. Director Moss asked to receive a copy of the written notice when received by the Historical Society.

CONSENT CALENDAR – Section 3

3.1 Approval of the Minutes and Attendance of March 11, 2009.

Motion was made by Vice President Moss, seconded by Director Flanagan, to accept the Consent Calendar for the March 11, 2009, meeting. There being no discussion, motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – Section 4

4.1 Resignation Letter of Director Wayne Moles

4.2 Request from Chowchilla Speedway for donation for July 3rd Fireworks – add to May Agenda

4.3 SBA SBDevCtr NxLevel™ for Existing Businesses – 12-session, 36 hr course – add to May Agenda

4.4 CalChamber discussion on President Obama’s First Hundred Days, 4/15, Los Angeles

REPORTS – Section 5

5.1 ADMINISTRATIVE:

5.1a Treasurer’s Report:

Treasurer Fall reported on the financial reports including the Member Aging report on dues not paid.

Manager Flanagan reported that one of the members paid their dues just prior to the meeting as well as reminded Directors that they approved at the March meeting to give businesses until June before sending letters regarding renewing membership due to the economy.

Director Pistorosi questioned what the \$3,156.00 in Accounts Receivable represented. Manager Flanagan advised this number balances to the Members Aging Report.

Treasurer Fall advised the Valentine Wine Trail is being listed as a line item on the 2010 Budget. President Scroggins asked if we are running current with 2008.

Treasurer Fall commented that a review of Workmen’s Compensation Insurance showed there will be a reduction in cost. The Chamber could join a group to reduce the cost from \$216 to \$160 but membership in the group is \$100; therefore, it is decided not to join. Previous cost was \$232.00.

5.1b Manager’s Report:

Manager Flanagan reported two new members; Chowchilla Computer Satellite Internet at 309 W.

Robertson and Trinity Pregnancy Resource Center at 209 S. 4th St. Chowchilla Computer would like a ribbon cutting on April 23 in conjunction with their open house. A ribbon cutting for Trinity would need to be set up.

Manager reported that 15 members had renewed since last meeting with one member, DC Cleaners not renewing but bringing Eye2Eye Photo Studio to full membership, and over 40 packets are still out to potential members with two new members solicited today.

Regarding marketing Chowchilla, Manager Flanagan reported there is a new online Wiki Newspaper, Village Voyage offering a free Chamber page with information about Chowchilla to help sell the community to potential businesses. Manager Flanagan requested to work with the City to place pertinent information about Chowchilla on a Chowchilla Chamber page. The BBB has no negative reports on this internet site and advised the information on the communities listed looks good. Following discussion

about the site and how it works. President Scroggins authorized Manager to develop information for website and present to Board at future date.

Manager Flanagan presented a training program for members offered by the Central California Small Business Development called NxLevel for Existing Businesses. It is a free 12-session, 36-hour course designed for entrepreneurs. After discussion regarding sponsoring the program, President Scroggins instructed the Manager to survey members to determine interest by local businesses in taking the course.

Manager advised that the office will be closed the first Friday and Monday of May, May 1 and 4; Manager on compensation time off.

Director Pistoresi asked to discuss the request by the Chowchilla Speedway for fireworks donation. Director Pistoresi asked if the Chamber had ever done this. Administrator Red gave history on donations, with the City, Chamber & Fairgrounds around 2000 in order to make it a community event rather than a lower ground Speedway event, more grandiose. The fireworks will not be on the 4th of July and lower priced than the events on the 4th. Director Flanagan asked if the Chamber's name on the publicity about the fireworks. President Scroggins requested the item be placed on the May agenda for action.

Manager Flanagan noted a last minute addition to correspondence, the Mayor's Prayer Luncheon on May 7th. A copy of flyer is in the packets and reservations can be made through Peggy Haupt at the City.

5.2 WORKING COMMITTEE:

5.2a By-Laws Revision

Director Pistoresi reported that all Directors had received a copy of the By-Laws revisions noting the recommended revisions and deleted text were tracked on the copies. Director Pistoresi reported that no meeting has been held by the committee as the chairperson has resigned from the Board. The Board reviewed section by section the proposed changes as well as grammatical corrections. Proposed changes are:

- Article III, Section 5, General Meetings, is quorum changed from 20 to 12.
- Article IV, Section 1, do to not change current 11 Board Position due to the Board of Directors is a working board and reduction in number of members would be detrimental to the Chamber.
- Article IV, Section 6 B., adding the verbiage that "no City Official or city paid employee will be eligible to hold Office".
- Article IV, Section 6 C., added re nominations ...the Manager shall immediately "submitted to the Board for their review and after the Board's review, immediately".
- Article V, Section 2, eliminate the verbiage "The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice President, immediate Past President, Treasurer and Manager, who will sit in the position of Secretary without a vote" (requested to prevent the Executive Committee from meeting prior to Board Meetings and making decisions without the Board's approval, except in an emergency situation).
- Manager Flanagan asked that a new Article be added to cover Committees since there is nothing in the By-Laws about the authority or duties of committees. Directors asked to be added in next draft, renumbering the Articles that follow the additional Article.
- Article V, Section 2, D. eliminate.

Manager Flanagan brought to the attention of the Board the list of duties and responsibility expected of the Manager which includes everything from recruiting new members to committee recruitment to policy planning, responsible for finances, to membership, Board and community relations. These duties need to be reviewed because they are too extensive to rate the Manager's performance at review time. There are not enough hours in the paid work week to complete all the duties professionally and efficiently. President Scroggins asked the Manager to bring these concerns to the Annual Review Committee. Director Pistoresi asked if the Manager has a contract; Manager Flanagan said that the

contract does not match the By-Laws.

Director Pistoresi asked the Manager to provide an updated revision to the By-Laws Committee for review prior to the April Board Meeting. President Scroggins asked the Manager to place the By-Laws Revision on the May Agenda for consideration.

a.1 Policies & Procedures Annual Review

Director Pistoresi report that these have not been reviewed and will discuss them with the committee.

5.2b General Meetings

Director Chavez reported that only the fourth quarter meeting needs to be scheduled. The Manager and he are working on interesting ideas for the meeting. Director Ginsburg suggested doing an issue about watering and Treasurer Fall suggested asking Kole Upton to talk about the water issue in the area with inserts mailed to Treasurer Fall's Ag customers. Treasurer Fall felt this program might boost attendance and that he would work on this meeting and contact Kole as the speaker.

5.2c Motorcycle Show n Shine

Director Flanagan reported that the committee has one dealer who will have a display of new bikes and accessories. Flyers have been printed and are being distributed to the cycle shops. A free local band has been arranged for the event. Director Ginsburg reported that the Friends of the Library had some issues regarding the lunch; Chairperson asked to cover this at the next committee meeting.

5.2d Maps

Vice President Moss reported that he will hold a Map meeting within the next week and have a report by the May Meeting.

5.3 Ad Hoc:

5.3a 2008 Audit Committee Annual Report

Treasurer Fall advised that he was unable to get provide the information but will get the information to the committee.

5.3b Christmas Adhoc Committee

Manager Flanagan reported on the contact with CCWF and showed the LED light strings that would reduce power usage. The refurbish project is moving forward and will report in May. Discussion followed regarding funding of the refurbishing project as well as ways to move to a more "green" project.

President Scroggins reported the meeting with the City Council resulted in that if the grant is denied

- the Chamber may request funds from the RDA to refurbish the current decoration or purchase new
- PG&E is still going to provide the service to put up the decoration

OLD BUSINESS – Section 6

6.1 Action: 2009 Budget Approval

Treasurer Fall advised that upon final review he noted a revision to the budget was needed to add a line item for the Motorcycle Show.

Motion made by Director Pistoresi to accept the 2009 Budget with the correction of adding a line item for the Motorcycle Show. Motion was seconded by Director Jones. There being no discussion, motion passed.

6.2 Discussion: By-Laws Revisions

Due to discussion and changes recommended during discussions on Agenda Item 5.2a, this agenda item was tabled to the May Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS – Section 7

7.1 Action: Board Vacancy

President Scroggins addressed Wayne Moles resignation letter and asked for any nominations from the Directors to fill the vacancy for the 2009 term. Director Pistoresi offered Brad Banks and Carol Belton as a nominee.

Motion was by Director Ginsburg, seconded by Director Jones, to appoint Carol Belton to replace Wayne Moles as a Board Director to complete the 2009 Term. There being no discussion, motion passed.

Director Pistoresi was assigned by President Scroggins to advise Carol Belton of the appointment to the Board.

7.2 Discussion: Chowchilla-Madera County Fair request for sponsorship 2009 Fair
Manager Flanagan advised this is a budget item.

Motion made by Director Ginsburg, seconded by Director Flanagan, to be a sponsor for the 2009 Chowchilla-Madera County Fair. No discussion, motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Section 8

8.1 CalChamber “The Obama Presidency – The First Hundred Days, April 15, 10:00 am, Los Angeles Radisson, \$125.00

8.2 Madera County Compact, 6th Annual Business & Education Shareholders’ Luncheon, 4/29, 11am-1:00pm, Madera Golf Course, info-662-3873

8.3 Manager Days off - Friday, 5/1 & Monday, 5/4

8.4 Great Valley Center 12th Annual Conference 20/20 Foresight, 5/6-7, Sacramento, CA, info 209-522-5103

ADJOURNMENT – Section 9

9.1 Adjournment

Motion was made by Director Jones, seconded by Director Flanagan, to adjourn the meeting at 1:58pm. No discussion, motion passed.