

Meeting of the Board of Director Tuesday, March 24 2015 7:45am

Hampton Inn Board Room – 5th Floor

Present; Kristi Anderson, Colleen Falk, Bob Griggs, Chuck Hildebrant, Ashley Johnson, Dave Kloha, Kirk Malkowski, Bryce Oakes, Scott Turn, Chris Vacek, Kayla Walters, Ryan Welle. Staff: Erin Messer, Lori Paris

Absent; Betsie Curb, Mychael Stittsworth, Lindsey Wangberg.

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:55AM by Chair Turn
- II. Action Items; January & February minutes. M/S by CH & CF-carried

Approved resolution of support for Northern Access Dental Clinic bonding- M/S CF & RW- carried

III. Financial Report (Falk) See attached

IV. Membership Report - New members: Jimmy Johns, Extreme Detail & Spinal Health Professionals
Drop: American Cancer, Ranch House & Sr. Center

V. Council & Committee Reports

Exec. Committee- Turn reported on Discussion of Bobble Head sales in TIC- invitation for one member to visit with Exec. Committee shared concern for this sale in the TIC- discussed history of sales and also suggested the board post minutes on the Chamber website and encouraged committee to have more retail representation on the board.

First City Lights- not enough funds in account for labor cost to remove lights from downtown trees, Paris read a statement from the foundation on the future of project currently at the Foundation; “NWF has decided to suspend services for project-only funds that conduct annual fund raisers. Our mission goals focus on endowment building. We find that there are other entities, such as city governments, that can serve as fiscal hosts and accept charitable donations for ongoing pass-through projects.”

It was suggested Paris meet with Craig Gray with the city to talk about the possibility of the city taking over the Waterfront expense. Turn will also be part of the meeting.

Turn discussed nominations for board members this fall. Malkowski & Oakes will rotate off the board- Paris dispursed a graph showing membership representation and listing current categories represented – Turn asked board members to offer suggestions for possible candidates in retail, downtown area etc. Candidates will need to be firm by June for submission in Chamber newsletter.

Membership Development:

Ambassadors- Greater Bemidji will be hosting their grand opening with ribbon cutting- board members encouraged to attend on April 17 at 3pm.

YPN- turns 6 with April renewals. Current members at 55. March meeting 41 attended Rosie Berg was presenter on Social Media. YPN dues had an increase as current dues were not covering lunch costs. Renewals are \$140 year with 16 already confirmed. April social held at the Bowling Alley.

Special Events:

Winterfest – still awaiting a few invoices and sponsorships to come in- will hopefully have a total next month.
Dragon Boat – 10th year. Working to find one or two more sponsors and more teams.

A. Economic Development Council;

Grow MN – nothing to report

Workforce/Education – Griggs reported on Lumberjack Academy update- identifying academies (Manufacturing, Health, Business, Natural Resources are a few identified so far. Meetings are the second Tuesday at 4pm. Chamber is part of the monthly meetings. NWF hosts an annual Career Expo that would be a perfect event for the Academy program.

President’s Report (Paris) Job Fair- April 9, Community Concierge –still working to find partners. Paris attending Northwest Sport Show this weekend for Bemidji booth. Waterfront construction – Pre-con meeting in early April with construction sometime early May- Paris asked city to keep Chamber as up to date as possible. Concern for signage, access for Chamber as well as visitor.
Meeting to discuss.

Meeting adjourned 8:57AM