

Stuart Chamber of Commerce

January 6, 2016

<http://www.stuartia.com>

President Nate Westre called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM on January 6th, 2016 at Ruby's Pub. Fifteen members were present.

A motion by Shannon Behnken to approve the minutes that were emailed prior to the meeting. Kari Schneider seconded; motion carried.

Shannon Behnken presented the current Treasurer's report, given to all members present. Motion by Cheryl Marks and seconded by Audrey Wells to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Guests present included Shaun Ollum, representing new member Krieger's Chevrolet, Marcia Roenfeld of GCH Clinic, and Karen Varley of Varley Law Office.

Committee Updates: Sign-up sheet was passed around.

Beautification: none

Good Egg Days:

- Father's Day weekend is June 17-19. A Facebook page for the GED event has been created.
- First planning meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 1st at Ruby's Pub at noon.

Membership/Business Promotion/Special Events:

- Membership letters were available at meeting and will be emailed and sent out.
- It was suggested to update membership letter with more-defined membership benefits, stating the goal to promote Stuart businesses and offer perks (such as a mentoring program in the future). The officers and committee chairs were tasked with researching other chamber groups to identify other possible perks the Stuart Chamber could offer its membership.
- Annual Dinner date is TBD.

Marketing/Promotions:

- Committee will meet later this month to discuss website, brochures, rack cards, GC Tourism Guide, etc.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Business Updates:

- Improvements at the Stuart Motor Lodge continue.
- Shaun Ollum, originally part of the Interstate Chevrolet team, has returned to Krieger's Chevrolet. Shaun reported that the majority of Krieger's business is from out of town, which could present an opportunity to market the town to the business's customers. Krieger's is looking to become more involved in the community.
- Ruby's Pub hosts live music most Saturday nights. Tyler Folkart will be performing on January 16th and a band from Missouri is scheduled in February.
- Tiffany informed Chamber members that Mary Jo Ytzen passed away.

Community Reports:

City of Stuart:

- Planning continues for the Downtown Infrastructure Project (Division and N 2nd Street). Letters were sent to notify building/business owners of the project. A copy of the letter was available at the meeting, as requested by the City Council.

SEED Update:

- Eric Tiernan reported the new offices for SEED: Cheryl Marks (President), Kevin Sargent (VP), Jim Belden (Treasurer), and Tiffany Johnson (Secretary).
- Kading Properties Inc. of Urbandale gave a presentation at the last SEED meeting, proposing the purchase of land on the southwest side of town to build townhouses. Examples of similar projects are located in Perry, Madrid, and Des Moines.
- Wambold Addition continues to develop steadily. Six houses are completed and three are currently under construction.

Midwest Partnership:

- MWP will be hosting their Annual Dinner on January 28th. The Guest Speaker will be Deal's Orchard in Jefferson.
- EntreBASH is scheduled for February 8th in Greenfield. This is a free event for entrepreneurs and small business owners looking to start, improve and/or grow their business. This is a free event; registration is online at www.entrebash.com.

White Pole Road: none

Lions Club: none

Community Visioning:

- Stuart received a grant for a yearlong community visioning project with Trees Forever. A steering committee has been formed and has begun meeting regularly. The goal will be to determine possible transportation enhancement projects in the community and work with landscape architects to create renderings to be used for future grant applications for implementing the projects.
- The Transportation Assets & Barriers meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 9th at WCV High School. This meeting will be open to the public, as community input is requested.

First Friday Forum:

- A group of community members have begun meeting at Ruby's Pub on the first Friday of the month. This is an informal and casual community meet-up for networking and sharing ideas, 5-8pm (come-and-go). All are welcome to attend. Due to New Year's, January's meeting is January 8th.

Next meeting will be at Country Kitchen on Wednesday, February 3rd @ 12PM.

Meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM

If your business would like to host a Stuart Chamber meeting please let us know. Email the stuartchamber@aol.com if you have any announcements that you would like to have sent out to the Chamber group.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynsi Pasutti, 2015 Secretary
Stuart Chamber of Commerce