

# Stuart Chamber of Commerce

February 3, 2016

<http://www.stuartia.com>

Treasurer Shannon Behnken called the meeting to order at 12:07 PM on February 3rd, 2016 at Country Kitchen. Eleven members were present.

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

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

Guests present included Nadali Forcht of Rolling Hills Bank & Trust.

## **Committee Updates:**

### Beautification:

- Kari Schneider reported that due to the infrastructure project, it's likely that no flowers will be planted this year as the bins will likely be moved. This opens up budgeting opportunities to support projects like the proposed pocket park or new banners.

Good Egg Days: Father's Day weekend is June 17-19. A Facebook page for the GED event has been created.

- Five committee members were present at the last meeting. The event's schedule was discussed and a theme is needed. A committee member will post on Facebook, seeking suggestions.
- A new idea for GED is possibly a watermelon feed, similar to how Rose Acres used to offer egg sandwiches.
- Another new idea is to provide a map of the activities for visitors.
- Some concern was raised in regards to the street dance and the infrastructure project. Timing of that project should be more set after the bidding process.
- Next planning meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 29th at Ruby's Pub at noon.

### Membership/Business Promotion/Special Events:

- Membership letters were available at meeting and will be emailed and sent out.
- Annual Dinner date is TBA.

### Marketing/Promotions:

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

**Old Business:** none

## **New Business:**

- The Biggest Loser Community Challenge is a nationwide effort to get businesses and communities involved with promoting healthy lifestyles (and to promote the TV show). The Chamber was approached to participate and encourage its membership to register teams of 4 for \$100. 20% of registration proceeds will come back to the Stuart Chamber if teams state they are associated with the Chamber. The Challenge is not solely about weight loss, but logging fruits/veggies/water and exercise. Each team member logs on and tracks their own progress, gaining points and competing against other Stuart teams. There are prizes involved, but not specifics are available at this time. The Challenge starts February 29<sup>th</sup>.
- "I would <3 to see \_\_\_ in Stuart." is an activity started by the First Friday Forum group. The idea is to get people brainstorming things they'd like to see happen in Stuart. Businesses around town will offer heart shaped sticky notes to their customers/patients/visitors and they will post them for all to see. The ideas will be collected and shared at the March First Friday. One will be selected to become reality. So far, businesses involved in the activity are Ruby's Pub, Rolling Hills Bank & Trust, Stuart Herald, Stuart Flowers & Gifts, GCH Clinic and ACHS Clinic.

## **Business Updates:**

- Adair County Health System has a new nurse practitioner, Interim CEO (joint with Madison County) and the auxiliary is currently accepting scholarship applications.
- Stuart Flowers & Gifts will be open all day on Saturday (9am-5pm) and noon-4pm on Sunday for Valentine's Day.
- AmericInn and the Stuart Motor Lodge will be hosting a job fair.
- First State Bank is hiring for two positions (loan officer and teller). Starting March 1<sup>st</sup>, the Stuart bank's lobby hours will change to 8:30am-4pm.
- Stuart Herald is up for a number of awards at the Newspaper Convention and will be judged by a New York paper.
- Ruby's Pub has their new hood installed, one step closer to having a kitchen.
- Country Kitchen will be closed sometime in March for a renovation.

## **Community Reports:**

### City of Stuart:

- Planning continues for the Downtown Infrastructure Project (Division and N 2<sup>nd</sup> Street). Letters were sent to building/business owners with assessment estimates. A public hearing is set for the next City Council Meeting. Some project details include a possible train theme and proposed pocket park (empty lot west of MK's Salon).

### SEED Update:

- Wambold Addition continues to develop steadily. Three more lots last week, one to a Kansas City couple.
- Negotiations are still under way with Kading Properties Inc. of Urbandale for a condo project in Stuart.

### Midwest Partnership:

- MWP hosted their Annual Dinner on January 28<sup>th</sup>. The Guest Speaker was Deal's Orchard in Jefferson. Stuart's own Eric Tiernan received the Guy Powell Award for his leadership in economic development.
- EntreBASH is scheduled for February 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.entrebash.com).

### White Pole Road: none

### Lions Club:

- Zone meeting is coming up and planning is under way for upcoming events.

### 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. Anyone interested in joining the committee can contact Kristen Renslow.
- The Transportation Assets & Barriers meeting is scheduled for April 2nd at WCV High School. This meeting will be open to the public, as community input is requested. Categories of participants include seniors, parents/children, and active recreational users. Contact Kristen Renslow or Lynsi Pasutti if you are interested in participating.

### 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.

Next meeting will be at AmericInn on Wednesday, March 2nd @ 12PM, sponsored by Subway.

Meeting adjourned at 12:52 PM

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lynsi Pasutti, 2016 Secretary  
Stuart Chamber of Commerce