

Stuart Chamber of Commerce

March 2, 2016

<http://www.stuartia.com>

President Nate Westre called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM on March 2nd, 2016 at AmericInn. Thirteen members were present. A special thanks to Subway for donating sandwiches.

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

No Treasurer's Report was presented.

No guests were present.

Committee Updates:

Beautification: (none)

Good Egg Days:

- Planning for the event is underway. The next planning meeting will be March 30th at 6pm at Ruby's Pub.

Membership/Business Promotion/Special Events:

- Membership letters have been mailed.
- Annual Dinner is set for Thursday, March 24th at the Saints Center for Culture & the Arts, to be catered by Los Altos. SEED is helping sponsor the guest speaker, Deb Brown from Webster City. Cost is \$25/person.

Marketing/Promotions:

- Committee is working with Kristen Renslow (SEED) to write a grant for a new website, to be submitted to both Adair and Guthrie Counties' community foundations.

Old Business:

- The Biggest Loser Community Challenge began February 29th. Teams can still register until March 15th. Stuart has seven teams signed up. The Challenge will last eight weeks.
- "I would <3 to see ___ in Stuart." Activity seemed to go over well in the community. Hearts will be collected and discussed at the next First Friday.

New Business:

- The Chamber has partnered with Rose Acre Farms for the past two years to provide printed bags for participants. Motion by Kristy Lonsdale to sponsors this year's bags for \$200. Tiffany Johnson seconded, motion carried.
- The WCV Scholarships Committee will be contacting businesses in the four towns of the WCV school district for sponsorship (they used to host an auction, as well as collect money for the Guthrie County Youth Foundation (was Dollars for Scholars)). Every student that applies will be required to participate in Make a Difference Day or serve at a Redfield Breakfast; each will be awarded some form of a scholarship.

Business Updates:

- The Stuart Herald will soon be printing seasonal inserts: the Wedding Guide, Senior Living & Health, and Home, Lawn & Garden.
- Dale Valley Vineyard & Winery will open for the season April 2nd.
- GCH Clinics will be participating in a Wellness Fair at the GCHospital on April 9th, 9am-noon. The event will be an open house for the departments to share their new technologies.
- Ruby's Pub has their new hood installed, one step closer to having a kitchen.
- Stuart Motor Lodge will be opening soon.
- AmericInn will be celebrating their 16th Anniversary on April 7th; they will host an Open House TBA.

Community Reports:

City of Stuart:

- Planning continues for the Downtown Infrastructure Project (Division and N 2nd Street). The bidding process will determine the timeline.

SEED Update:

- Wambold Addition continues to develop steadily; a few more agreements were recently signed.
- Negotiations are still under way with Kading Properties Inc. of Urbandale for a 42-unit project in Stuart.

Midwest Partnership:

- EntreBASH was on February 8th in Greenfield. The event was well attended, despite inclement weather. MWP and UNI will be following up with those in attendance to address any business issues discussed in one-on-one sessions. MWP created a Small Business Newsletter, with the first quarterly issue recapping the event.
- Western Iowa Advantage will host its Annual Dinner on April 5th at the Saints Center for Culture & the Arts.

White Pole Road: none

Lions Club:

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

Community Visioning:

- 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.

Scoop the Loop:

- A planning meeting is scheduled for March 3rd.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 6th @ 12PM, location TBA.

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 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