

February 6, 2019 Stuart Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chamber President, Kristy Lonsdale, with 15 present. Last month's minutes were reviewed and approved as written. The Treasurer's report was reviewed by Cheryl Marks and approved.

Committee updates:

- Good Egg Days – Kristy is working with one new vendor
- Marketing/Media Promotions – working on brochure with SEED
- Membership – Annual dues letter in progress; see Director's Report

New Business updates

- discussion of RAGBRAI possibly coming through this year on White Pole Road on July 22
- City is willing to apply for grant on behalf of Chamber for a grant for painting mural at Pocket Park. Karen Varley moved to proceed; Cheryl Marks seconded. Motion carried. Artist Jason Girard is open to ideas for designs.
- brief discussion of a suggestion to rename Division Street as “Bonnie and Clyde Drive” and rename the Pocket Park.

Director's Report:

- Community Coffee at 7:00 on the 3rd Friday of each month
 - o Wagner Investment was on 01/18/19 – great food
 - o Next is 02/15/19 at Stuart Appliance
 - o Announcements & updates are usually around 7:30
 - o All hosting opportunities have been filled for remainder of the year
- After Hours at Ruby's on February 7
- Membership letters were emailed and will follow up with mailed letters
- Annual Dinner is being planned for March 7th at the Saints Center with a Bonnie & Clyde theme. Rod Stanley will be the speaker
- Mike Tiernan has redesigned the Stuart Website (stuartia.com) with the new logo and navy/gold colors. Should have the site live in two weeks. Send events to Mike Tiernan (mike@tiernantech.com) for posting.
- Brenda is attending a 3 day Grant Writing Class in April and May
- White Pole Road has been named an official Iowa DOT Scenic Byway. There will be a lunch meeting at the Menlo Café on February 20 at noon – for anyone interested in tourism statistics and to get input on what we can do to grow tourism, please attend
- Chamber is bringing Rudy Daniels to the Depot on April 11 at 7pm to talk about “Trains Across Iowa”
- Sue Sciranko from Atlantic News created the ad for the promotional brochure she had described at the January meeting. Booklets are done and she will be dropping them off. They will be going also to 3 shopper areas.

Business Updates: Mike Navin from Rock n Ranch now has a miniature golf, bleachers, horseshoe pitch, will have a concession/game room. Dave Paulson from Karl Chevrolet

announced that the new Collision Center will possibly be open and ready for business the week of February 11. Dean Porter, Pastor of New Beginnings Open Bible Church, invited everyone to attend the "Thursday Night Concert" February 28. The family trio called the Loynachans will be blessing everyone with their inspiring voices/music. On February 28 also, Russ Wagner will be holding a Financial Education seminar at 6pm at the Stuart Library. Sandy's Sweetheart Dance is Saturday, February 9 at the Saints Center. Doors will open at 6pm, buffet at 6:30pm and dance at 7pm. Hope to see you there. Town & Country Insurance is doing a Valentine-themed promotion via Facebook or stop in.

SEED: Out of 24 lots in the second Wambold Addition, 3 are still available. On the west side of school, there are 39 lots that will be available and this will be called the All Saints Addition. Also, the City issued tax abatements for three new homes and has approved three projects for the blighted housing program.

Stuart Lions Club: meets the first Monday of every month at 7pm the Methodist Church. A fundraiser will be held in April at the Stuart Rec Center.

Stuart Revitalization Committee: First annual Bonnie & Clyde Run scheduled for April 13; sponsors are being sought. Preliminary plans are underway for a BBQ cook-off in downtown Stuart, possibly in the fall. Also working on Sesquicentennial plans in conjunction with Good Egg Days 2020.

White Pole Road: discussion about RAGBRAI coming through

Midwest Partnership: no updates

Next meeting to be held on March 6 at the Country Kitchen at noon

Motion made by Jeff Schwartzkopf to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Karen Penton

Respectfully,
Karen Penton