

ASHLAND AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING JUNE 21, 2007

Date & Time –June 21, 2007 at 7:30 am

Location-Saint Catherine Medical Center

Present-S.Scheuren,C.Wydra,G.Fisher,B.Braunstein.L.Drebitko,S.Demko,
G.Demko,C.Heitzenroth,T.Hahn.

Call to Order-The meeting was called to order at 7:35 am by Bob B., President, followed by the pledge of allegiance to the U.S. flag.

Review & Approval of Minutes for Last Meeting- The minutes from the May 17, 2007 meeting were distributed and approved as submitted on a motion by CW/GD 2nd.

Treasurers Report-see separate report. The Treasurers report was accepted on a motion by SD/CH 2nd.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Schuylkill Chamber- Laurie reported the Schuylkill Chamber's Golf Tournament will be held on July 20th at Hidden Valley at 8 am.

Upper Schuylkill- Greg reported because of new conflict of interest rules at the state government level; we will be seeing a change of officers at ADI. All offices are open except possibly treasures. US also looking to buy a sidewalk sweeper to be used by all 6 towns. Labor Day weekend is being widely publicized through handouts and TV commercials. Tidy Town will again be sponsored the first week of August and \$1,000 prize will be given to the cleanest town. Residents of Northwestern Academy have been in place pulling weeds for a few weeks now.

OLD BUSINESS

Sharon reported that we once again missed the deadline for giving the Business Excellence Award to the graduating class at NS and CB. We had no communication from them for several years. Bob suggested this be referred to the Liaison Committee for next year. We visited 3 new businesses in conjunction with ADI, Fabrizio's, Ashland Pizza and Ashland Downtown Motors.

NEW BUSINESS

George reported Ashland Recreation Committee is again sponsoring 3 movies this summer and is looking for donations to defray the cost. One movie is \$300 and on a motion by CW/TH 2nd it was decided to sponsor a movie.

George also reported there is a possibility that Kiwanis may be disbanding due to lack of new members. Their part in the Christmas decorations, the community tree, was discussed and we decided that we should take over that responsibility if needed.

George reported the Ashland Borough Council declined the Penn Dot Pedestrian Safety grant because the police did not want to do it. Only 2 councilpersons voted for it. Discussion took place regarding the importance of this program, especially in light of a prominent businessman, Mr. Schilling being killed while crossing the street. We as a group are very concerned about the safety of the downtown and decided to send a letter to the Borough Council expressing our concern.

Greg updated us on the ADI programs. The business district consists of 1st to 13th streets. A property and business inventory and survey will first take place to see exactly what we have in town. Businesses will soon be asked to ask for the zip code of their customers to see where business is coming from. All information will be analyzed to help develop the downtown. Eventually a brochure/directory may be available.

Currently a design challenge grant with 50/50 matching funds is in place and being taken advantage of by several businesses and/or professionals in the town. It is provided for façade improvement. Art program renderings of participating buildings are already done and look great.

George said he will try to arrange a tour of the new NS Elementary School before it opens for the Chamber.

Discussed a summer break and decided to meet again next month.

Adjournment-The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 on a motion by TH/GD 2nd.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Demko
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Secretary