



Lower Level
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Promoting Oregon's Businesses & Community

OREGON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 15, 2008, 2008; 12:00-1:30PM

Oregon Fire/EMS District Office; 113 Spring Street

Board Members Present: Chris Venden, Barb Mulcahy, Lisa Kersten, Dave Mastos, Brett Davis, Aaron Ingham, Dan Bertelson, Steve Poetter

Board Members Absent: Jason Johns, Renee Ackerman

Speakers: Police Chief Doug Pettit, Mark Below, Public Works, Jeff McCarthy, Alliant Energy

Members Present: Jeff McCarthy, Mark Mortensen, Andy Lawry, Frank Caruso, Gerald Neath, Amy Schuch, Donna Larsen, Mark Miller, Donna Martens, Tom Eithun, Jacque Kleiman, Mark Below, Doug Pettit, Chris Meicher, Jodi Poe, Joe Dempich, Nick White, Hans Thiel Lori Miller, Judy Knutson, Paula Ricker, Tammy Mandarino, Linda Saadaoui

Staff Present: Marechiel Santos-Lang, Kristen McGuine

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1. Meeting called to order by Aaron Ingham at 12:11 p.m
 2. Approval of the April 17, 2008 Membership Minutes. Motion to approve made by Laurie Miller, seconded by Dave Mastos. Motion approved.
 3. Around the Table: *Members Introduce Themselves and Share with Other Fellow Members Information About their Business: News, Changes, Promotions, Sales & Events*
 3. Thank you's. Aaron thanked Primo's for providing lunch for the meeting.
 4. Oregon Downtown Road Construction Project Update by Village Public Works Director Mark Below. Mark indicated that the State is still reviewing plans for downtown construction, they hope to hear something by May 19th. The Village then has to advertise 3 weeks and a day, looking at June 6th-9th.
 5. Oregon Burglary/Vandalism Update by Chief of Police Doug Pettit. Chief Pettit indicated that the rash of burglaries that Oregon and the Dane County area are experiencing, residential and business burglaries have subsided somewhat, but he expects they will continue to escalate. The Chief indicated that Oregon had its first "Smash and Grab" burglary at the Ming Moon. Unless businesses have an alarm system, or good video system, it is a crime opportunity that can happen in 3 minutes. The Chief handed out brochures on protecting yourself/business, indicating "as soon as the weather gets nice, burglaries increase, so it's going to be a busy summer." The police are meeting with neighborhood organizations to help protect them. He offered the following tips: 1. Never leave vehicles unlocked, even at home. 2. Leave garage doors shut. 3. We need to watch out for each other. The Chief requested that all suspicious activity be called into 911. The Chief discussed the graffiti that has been taking place in Oregon, saying that it degrades our quality of life, there are copy cats, and it's a black eye for the community. The police are trying to identify the individuals in every situation, and are working with the district attorney to charge them. The ages responsible are

between 11 and 14 years old, and it typically occurs between 3am and 6am. Camera systems are helpful, when talking to security companies ask what system they can download images to. The Chief explained that they are looking at a graffiti ordinance in the Village and said that if you're a victim of tagging, we want you to take care of it as soon as possible. They are looking at an ordinance of 15 days to remove it. Chief Pettit went on to say that none of our taggings are gang related and talked about a reward fund, which is at Community Bank and Trust. It's built through donations, (not tax dollars). If Chamber members want to donate to the reward fund, they can do that, and then we can use that money to try to solve issues. Currently not enough money in the fund.

6. Q&A:

- Have you considered camera's in the railroad corridor? Yes, they have looked at putting in an infrared camera system there.
- Any benefit of letting Chamber know when there are break ins so that we can notify business owners? Chief Pettitt, talked about CrimeWatch, a State Wide program, like an Amber Alert system, for businesses. If something happens, the police office would send out a message to everyone in the system about the crime in the community, region, State. In leiu of that, they're looking to do that though the "e-alert" for now. It benefits everyone, so they're working on that. The Chief indicated that if people have concerns about police activity, they can make a call to the office until 9:00 pm if questions/concerns.
- Can we put a tall pole up with a camera, so people know there's a camera there, to dissuade people from doing graffit? "Graffiti Cam" The Chief indicated that the issue is to get compliance to get people not to do graffiti.

7. Member Matters: Energy & Home Conservation by Jeff McCarthy of Alliant Energy, Mark Mortensen of All-Color Powder Coating, Nick Hall of Tecmarket Works. Working to develop a program to bring incentives to small/medium businesses to be more efficient. He discussed energy saving options. Look for Energy Star Ratings, conserving whenever possible. Our efforts on saving energy so far has delayed the building of one power plant. He discussed renewable energy, wind power, solar, etc. Shared Savings program is now available to smaller businesses. Alliant provides the money, and the energy savings pays them back. They will finance anything that saves money. They will help you identify areas to save, and everyone benefits. The "Green Team" has saved 625 Million kwh in the last 7 years, so that delayed building power plant. Mark indicated they have used the Energy Savings program 6-7 times over the last 12 years. It's a simple process, they determine what could be used, look at newest technologies, costs, savings, and they come with a plan savings, and they loan you the amount to make the changes. The program has allowed them to expand sooner as well. There are a lot of incentives to work with them on this program. Rates will never go down, continue to save energy. Take advantage of what's available. Replace all incandescent lighting, without major investment. Contact Jeff McCarthy for copies of the presentation if desired. Nick Hall spoke on how programs that he has been involved with have been successful in eliminating one power plant a year in California. Many leaders are recognizing global change. He indicated that "The Stearn Report," shows that we have to get 50% of our energy consumption though efficiency usage. California is driving all of the states right now.

8. Wrap Up / Recap / Chamber Announcements

- Thank You Microbrew Fest Volunteers & Attendees – Marechiel thanked all of the 56 volunteers, we had for this event. We had more attendees and sold out on the food at 4:30. The event was featured in the Observer and on Newscene15. Marechiel talked about downtown Road Construction and benefits of the Chamber to the community. You can see the interview at NBCLive.Com. We received good press, gave out 2 tickets, and we received 60 phone calls. Marechiel will send photos and it will be in the newsletter.
- Summerfest – Great way to get exposure. Please contact Marechiel to sign up to volunteer.
 - Sponsorship Opportunities Still Available

- Vending Opportunities Now Available
 - Parade Participation Applications Now Accepted.
9. Motion to Adjourn: Motion made by Dave Mastos and seconded by Barb Mulcahy, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm
 10. After The Meeting. President's Afternoon Golf - Dave Mastos is coordinating.
 11. Mark Your Calendars for the Next 3 months' Membership Meetings

June 19, Thursday Possibly at Hawthorne's

12:00 – 1:30 PM Membership Meeting.

After the Meeting: President's Afternoon Golf

July 17, Thursday

12:00-1:30 PM. Studio Barn: A True Likeness Photography

Catering provided by Firefly Coffee House

After the Meeting: President's Afternoon Golf

Aug 21, Thursday

11:45 – 12:00 PM. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: Community of Life Lutheran Church

12:00 – 1:30 PM Membership Meeting. Community of Life Lutheran Church Sanctuary

Catering provided by JL Richards

After the Meeting: President's Afternoon Golf