



Lower Level. Oregon Community Bank & Trust
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Promoting Oregon's Businesses & Community

OREGON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Membership Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 21, 2008, 12:00-1:30PM
Oregon Family Restaurant . 768 North Main Street

Board Members Present: Joe Kasinski, Chris Venden, Barb Mulcahy, Lisa Kersten, Dan Bertelson, Dave Mastos, Aaron Ingham

Board Members Absent: Brett Davis, Jason Johns, Renee Ackerman

Speakers: Speakers: Village President – Steve Staton
Village Administrator – Mike Gracz
Kevin Lord, MSA Professional Services

Members Present: Ray Antoniewicz, Donna Martens, Judy Knutson, Tammy Mandarino, Phil Harms, Lori Miller, Angela Gerlach, Tom Thrun, Seth Jovaag, Vicki Cothroll, Judy Whalen, Dave Wattenbach, Frank Caruso, Erika Weidler, Steve Peoterer, Tina Knable, Lori Miller, Tim Tubbs, LuAnn Pauli

Staff Present: Marechiel Santos-Lang

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1. Meeting called to order by President Joe Kasinski at 12:10 p.m.
 2. Welcome & Thank you to Host: Oregon Family Restaurant.
 3. Reading of the Chamber Mission Statement. Read by membership.
 4. Around the Table/Introductions Made: Members share what they want other members to know about their business, any special sales, promotions, news or any message they wish to communicate
 5. Approval of January 17, 2008 Membership Meeting Minutes. Motion made by Dan Bertelson and seconded by Steve Staton. Motion carried.
 6. President's Thank You: Annual Dinner was a success. Joe Kasinski thanked Chamber Presidents, Sponsors, Volunteers, Committee Members, Staff, and everyone who helped and participated in the event. We exceeded fundraising goals. It will be on Cable Access on Saturday, if anyone wishes to see it.
 7. Member Matters: Downtown Reconstruction Discussion.
 8. Speakers: Kevin Lord, MSA Professional Services.
Downtown Re-construction – Kevin Lord displayed a board of the reconstruction plans. Indicating that construction will:
 - Include Grove to Elm Street, building face to building face, sidewalks, adding landscaping, then from Spring Street, along Jefferson Street to the alley behind the businesses, which has been extended to match in with Railroad project.
 - It will include Memorial and Matson Parks. Working with the VFW, on the monument and they just had their last meeting.
 - Traffic Pattern will stay the same as is, but wider intersection.

- M&I sign will stay where it is.
- Working with plan for Hitching Post area, within rightaway.
- The overhead line between Kwik Trip and Tri-County will be buried.
- Looking at an early May start date, extending through September. The contractor will provide a detailed schedule. There will be disruption to businesses, and there will be signs guiding people to parking and businesses.

9. Mike Gracz indicated that Oregon received a T-grant that will help pay for the streetscaping and decorative lighting. The Village:

- Will have to review bids and bonding and still has some decisions to make on funding for the downtown area.
- Goals are to keep the roads open as much as possible. Major water utility work needs to be done, so road will be closed.
- Will work with the Businesses as much as possible.
- Is under contract with MSA, so MSA will be the Liaison through the project, providing alternate access routes, and will work with the businesses.

10. Question & Answer and Discussion on Downtown Re-construction –

- All businesses north/south included, will be affected. What about signage? There will be signs indicating the road will be open to downtown businesses. Emergency vehicles still have to be able to get through, and emergency routes will be in play.
- Is Burr Oak one of the main Corridors? Yes. And also Netherwood, and Oak.
- Is the Village willing to loosen up guidelines on signage during construction? Yes, they will work with the Chamber and businesses.
- Have the final recommendations been approved from VFW? No, not yet.
- Phil Harms said “we’re all independent businesses, and you all have a voice. We need to keep business as usual. We need people to continue shopping here”. Joe Kasinski explained that the Chamber had contacted several communities on how they made it through construction processes, and if you have input, pass it along to the Village or Chamber. Steve Staton indicated that we have to do the construction this year, or we may lose the T-grant. The end product will be a real benefit when it’s done. There needs to be good communication. We all need to work together. They will return to the Chamber meeting, once a bid has been made.
- Mark Below is the contact during this project.
- Is there any budget for signage and advertising, so we can be proactive, a campaign for businesses? This has not been discussed as of yet, but can bring it up at the next Public Works meeting.
- Suggestion to have a Street Dance prior to opening, a grand re-opening for businesses, and celebrate as a community, maybe at National Night Out. Marechiel indicated it may have a big impact on Summerfest and the Parade route.
- Any changes to parking? Overall we lost about 7 stalls of parking. Will have a terrace for businesses. The Village indicated they will be purchasing holiday lights. Would like some front-page news in Observer about businesses being open. Lisa Kersten encouraged businesses to come to the Retail Committee meeting and work together. Start a Reconstruction Committee (in Retail Committee) to have fundraisers to help. We need more retailers to get involved and participate.

11. Village President – Steve Staton – State of the Village Address. – Business Development.

- Trachte is building a new facility in the Alpine Business Park.
- Paul Lynch is doing some business development.
- Phase 5 of the Alpine area, it has been held up, but will move forward once that’s approved.
- The Bergamont will be opening their water park on Memorial Day, and Club House should open in July.

- The Village Board approved a comprehensive study, and will receive it on March 3rd, and it will be presented on March 17th. That will help us know where we are for annexations, and storm water issues. Steve indicated “We did put in grants, for flood plain properties, from FEMA and DNR, and that will give us a start.”
- The ice arena, grew into a \$6 million building, and it has been scaled back, but it is underway.
- We started a new refuse and recycling program.
- The railroad is a \$1.64 Million dollars project. Discussion on future ownership of that line, between Fitchburg and Oregon, looking at who should own it. Discussed a pedestrian trail, or bike path, which bids are underway.
- In 2009, will start the engineering process on Hwy 14, but it will most likely be 2011 before it is complete.
- Joe Kasinski asked the direction of the Village growth plans. Steve Staton indicated it’s on the agenda, but got delayed due to the flooding last year. He indicated some people want Oregon to remain a bedroom community, others don’t. This is one of the fastest growing counties in Wisconsin. The Village is working on a draft of an RFP.

12. Welcome New Members and Other Announcements

- Keller Williams – Jerrod Bennett
- Tastefully Simple – Tammy Henn
- Krenz Engineering – Bob & Jan Krenz

13. Announcements

- Microwbrewfest will be May 10th.
- After 5 Mixer is on March 12th, place and sponsor to be determined.

14. Next Membership Meeting: March 20, Thursday; 12:00-1:15 PM; Pizza Pit

15. **Anytime Fitness Ribbon Cutting Ceremony & Open House for Chamber Members;**
March 20; Thursday, 1:30-2:30PM

16. Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn made by Barb Mulcahy and seconded by Dave Mastos, at 1:25 p.m.

We value your input and participation. Please mark your calendars! See you next meeting!