



Lower Level
Oregon Community Bank & Trust Building
733 North Main Street, Oregon WI, 53575
Tel: (608) 835-3697 Fax: (608) 835-2475

Promoting Oregon's Businesses & Community

OREGON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 20, 2008; 11:45AM-12:45PM

Firefly Coffeehouse, 114 N. Main Street, Oregon WI 53575

Board Members Present: Renee Ackerman (A&G Accounting), Dave Mastos (DLM Financial Solutions), Chris Venden (Keller Williams), Brett Davis (80th District Assembly)

Board Members Absent: Dan Bertelson, Aaron Ingham, Jason Johns, Lisa Kersten, Steve Peotter, Barb Mulcahy

Members Present: Gerald Neath (Oregon Area Historical Society), Lori Miller (Group Health Cooperative-SCW), Judy Whalen (Whalen & Associates), Jeremy Hatfield (Oregon Police Department), Lori Wegner (The Horse First Farm), Kaori Kurihara-Nelson (D-Chai, LLC Thai Massage Shop), Matthew Klutzke (Oregon Youth Center), Ginny Damman (Restaino & Associates), Donna Martens (Capital Newspaper), Sandy Ambrosius (Hound Huddle).

Guest Speaker – Mark Below, Director of Public Works

Staff Present: Marechiel Santos-Lang, Executive Director

-
1. Meeting called to order by Renee Ackerman, Treasurer at 12:15 p.m.
 2. Around the Table: Introductions were made. This week's theme is "*What is your business doing to counter the downturn in the economy*"
 3. Approval of the October 16, 2008 Membership Minutes. Motion to approve, made by Judy Whalen of Whalen & Associates and seconded by Lori Wegner, new member The Horse First Farm. Motion approved.
 4. Marechiel's Overview - Reviewed new businesses, and announced Primo's Gyro's closing.
 5. Downtown Construction Update by Mark Below, Director of Public Works. This would be the last update for downtown progress reports, phase 1 construction. Mark explained that everything is pretty much completed, the lights will be activated within the next few days, the crew from Parisi Construction is doing some clean up, planters, benches, etc. The railroad bridge is just about complete, and should be open by tomorrow. They still have to put the rail & ties. They have met the goal of getting it done by Thanksgiving. Mark thanked the business community for their support and said it was a good experience and partnership. Dave Mastos commented that there was some graffiti already on the bridge. Mark explained that it hasn't been turned over to the community yet, but it should be taken care of shortly. There will be a ½ hour kick off and recognition ceremony on Dec. 12th with the Village of

Oregon, MSA Services and Parisi Construction. Tokens of appreciation will be handed out by the Oregon Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Marechiel Santos-Lang and Village President, Steve Staton, and then everyone will head off to M&I Bank grounds for a Tree Lighting Ceremony.

6. Oregon Area Business Expo (Nov 20, 5:30-8:30PM) by Chris Venden. The date has been set for November 20th, at Gorman's (the red brick) building. There would be wine, beer and food tasting by local businesses. There are 86 businesses represented in the Expo.
7. Oregon Holidays, by Marechiel Santos-Lang. The event is scheduled for Dec. 12& 13th, This will be a great community event, that starts with a program at the Village Hall, tree lighting ceremony, carriage rides, chili supper at the fire department and various choir performances that evening. Everyone was encouraged to bring their families and join in the celebration. There will be a horse parade on Saturday and Santa will be visiting different locations.
8. 2009 Membership Renewals, by Marechiel Santos-Lang. She explained that they will be coming out shortly. The chamber is trying to do things more cost-effectively for the Chamber. She said that the Chamber Board has approved a 5% increase in the dues to keep with the growing costs of things. However, she reiterates the chamber's value to members including wide exposure in the a free listing in the business & recreation guide. The deadline for renewals is January 15th, and members must send in their renewal form to be in the guide. This guide will be in full color and written with high quality content designed to market Oregon to its visitors, business investors and community members. "We have many things to be proud of here in Oregon, and that's what we hope to bring about in next year's Business & Recreation guide", Marechiel said. Marechiel showed a copy of the front page of the guide. There will be 10,000 copies to be printed, and 7,500 will be direct mailed to the Oregon area residents and Oregon school district families. The rest will be sent to chambers and visitor centers throughout the state.
9. Next Meetings and Events: December's membership meeting will be a Pot Luck at Marty D. Verhelst, CPA Conference Room, Autumn Woods Professional Building. There will be a speaker to talk about Time Management. December membership meeting will be December 18, 2008, 11:30AM – 1:30PM.
10. Meeting Adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.