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Promoting Oregon's Businesses & Community

OREGON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 19, 2009; 11:30AM-1:05PM

A-Z FARM, 1820 Schuster Road, Oregon

Lunch catered by BrouxNellie's Diner

Board Members Present:

- Brett Davis (State Assembly Representative)
- David Mastos (DLM Financial)
- Barb Mulcahy (State Bank of Cross Plains)

Board Members Absent:

- Jerod Bennett (Keller Williams)
- Aaron Ingham (Trachte, Inc.)
- Jason Johns (Tenuta & Johns)
- Lisa Kersten (Unified Newspaper Group)
- Steve Peotter (Oak Bank)
- Erika Weidler (Firefly Coffeehouse)
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Staff Present: Marechiel Santos-Lang (Executive Director), Kristin McGuine (Member Services Manager)

Members Present:

Ray Antoniewicz (A-Z Farm)
Alice Antoniewicz (A-Z Farm)
Sara Antoniewicz (A-Z Farm)
Jeff Smith (Alliant Energy)
Amy Ketterer (American Cancer Society Relay for Life)
Lori Miller (GHC-SCW)
Ptr. Fred Schmitt (Hillcrest Bible Church)
Sandy Ambrosius (Hound Huddle)
Dr. Mark McCann (Luedtke-Storm-Mackey Chiropractic)
Angie Baskin (M&I Bank)
Gerald Neath (Oregon Area Historical Society)
Judy Knutson (Oregon Community Bank & Trust)
Dan Bertelson (Re/Max Realtors)
Nate Miller (State Bank of Cross Plains)
Cathy Grender (Welcome Neighbor)
Mike Gracz (Village of Oregon)
Darlene Groenier (Village of Oregon)
Steve Staton (Village of Oregon)

➤ **Welcome.** Board President Brett Davis welcomed everyone, and thanked Ray, Alice and Sara Antoniewicz of A to Z Farm for hosting the meeting.

- **Around the Table:** Members introduced themselves and shared with fellow members information about their business including news, changes, promotions, sales and events. Specifically, these members had additional information to share:
 - **Lori Miller (Group Health Co-operative of South Central Wisconsin)** mentioned their great healthcare insurance for you/your employees. In fact there are 21 ways GHC can save you money on insurance.
 - **Jeff Smith (Alliant Energy)**-This is his first meeting he is attending as new representative for Oregon.
 - **Angie Baskin (M&I Bank)** reminded everyone that their book drive runs through tomorrow, March 22nd. She also sent a flier around about myths and facts regarding federal bail out money and Wisconsin banks.
 - **Dan Berterlson (Re/Max)** is looking for more listings under \$200,000. This seems to be where demand is focused at this time.
 - **Amy Ketterer (American Cancer Society-Relay for Life)** reminded everyone about Relay for Life coming up June 19-20 at the Stoughton High School track. She also mentioned that their new event scheduled for May 2, Bark for Life, is really taking off, and funds go to Relay for Life/American Cancer Society.
 - **Judy Knutson (Oregon Community Bank & Trust)** Mortgage rates are below 5% for first time in 30 years!
 - **Sandy Ambrosius (Hound Huddle)** will be a water hole sponsor for Bark for Life. They are also collecting canned dog food/treats/toys for the Dane County Humane Society.
 - **Gerald Neath (Oregon Area Historical Society)** is currently contacting businesses, encouraging them to display historic photos on loan from the Historical Society and looking for businesses to join as members.
 - **Ray Antoniewicz (A-Z Farm)** mentioned that they used to work with the Chamber to host the community Halloween party, and would like to consider bringing this event back in the near future. He also asked anyone interested to place orders for lamb meat to do so.
 - **Pastor Fred Schmitt (Hillcrest Bible Church)** announced that, after two years without a senior pastor, Hillcrest just approved a new hire, coming at end of April.

- **Approval of February 19, 2009 Membership Minutes.** Lori Miller moved to approve; Dave Mastos seconded. No one opposed. Approval passed unanimously.

- **Annual Dinner Update.** The Annual Dinner was very well received. Brett Davis, committee chair said the fundraising goal was to make \$1,500. We're still awaiting the final numbers. A number of members who had attended the Annual Dinner shared comments and impressions from the evening. It was noted that is very special to have General Wilkening involved in the community and with the Chamber considering he being a 2-star general. There were also very favorable comments regarding Jeff Skiles' attendance and the speech he gave. People had a great time at the dinner and the challenge is to top it for next year.

- **Summer Fest Update.** Summer Fest is coming up June 25-28, and planning is well underway. Marechiel encouraged everyone to consider their own organization's participation, be it as a volunteer, entering the parade, vending food, etc. We are very excited this year about the entertainment line up, including annual favorite Super Tuesday and The Brits, a Beatles cover band, on Sunday. Summer Fest is always the last full weekend in June.

- **Chamber reminders.**
 - Business & Recreation Guide—watch for letters in the mail with your organization contact information that will be included in your free business listing. Please look this over carefully to determine if it is accurate. If we do not hear back from you by Friday, March 27, we will assume the information is acceptable as it is.
 - New Chamber Supporters/Members: Town of Oregon and Kwik Trip.
 - The next two membership meetings will focus on communication:
Part I: April 16 @ Oregon Family Restaurant -- 7:30 AM (note different time)
Part II: May 21 @ Holy Mother of Consolation Church -- 11:30 AM
 - Don't forget to get submissions to be included in the monthly newsletter to us by the 20th of each month. The newsletter is published on the 1st of every month.

➤ **Member development.**

“The State of the Village of Oregon – Issues & Developments in the Village of Oregon affecting Local Businesses”

Guest Speakers: Steve Staton, Village President and Mike Gracz, Administrator

Brett Davis introduced the speakers and began with comments about the importance of a strong relationship between the Chamber of Commerce and the Village of Oregon.

Steve Staton acknowledged this and noted how the relationship in the past has been adversarial and how pleased he is that the Chamber and the Village working relationship has been complementary and wishes for a continuous strong partnership.

Steve then talked about the Village of Oregon Highlights of Accomplishments during 2008:

- Acceptance of 2007 audit, including increased rigor towards greater financial stability.
- Village rating upgraded by Moody's to A1 from A2.
- Necessary prioritizing required by budgeting process..
- Approved agreement with Oregon Community Sports Arena, which has been such a community asset, hosting up to 100 on Friday night open skates.
- New administration and Lab Building at Wastewater Treatment Plant completed.
- Passed resolution in support of Thrive.
- 4 elections, including the biggest one they've ever had. An observer here from Madison said it was the best-run election he'd ever been a part of. Steve commented that staff Georgia Johnson was instrumental to making this happen.
- Westside Community Park path completed. Connects with South burr oak. Working on more connections with bike trails. Master bike map will be on Village website at least month before meeting in May. They hope to eventually connect Oregon bike paths to Madison. All new developments in Oregon will have bike trails built in to them.
- Introduction of new refuse and recycling program, which has resulted in a huge increase in recycling.
- Now grinding rather than burning refuse as a more environmentally friendly way to handle the yard waste.
- As a result of flooding last spring, the Village purchased 5 of 6 homes on Florida Ave. This process is moving along much faster than originally planned, and has been helped by money from county.
- Storm water sewer culvert replacements began, and recent study showed that the new pipes worked well in recent weather.
- Revising storm water regulations.
- Approved Trachtes new facility in Alpine Business Park, and the construction went so smoothly.
- Downtown construction Phase I is completed, and the Village appreciates the Chamber's recognition at the Annual Dinner.
- The Jefferson Street railroad bridge has been replaced.
- Downtown ad hoc committee was formed, and met consistently regarding downtown construction phases I and II.
- Working with Chamber on Economic Development.

Steve then announced the Village's Priorities in 2009.

- Braun Road extension to bus park—will include traffic lights.
- Presbyterian Church—wants to help them find new place.
- Annexation of corner of Phil Peterson's land to build storm water pond.
- Strategic planning with community stakeholders. A committee will be formed to help design this planning/workshop session.
- Establishment of neighborhood watch program due to outbreak of thefts throughout Dane County.
- The next phase of the Downtown Road Construction that would include redoing of the front entrance of Village Hall, the village hall parking lot and the Hitching Park.

Other discussions:

- There is a potential for horse access to downtown Oregon. This issue is currently being discussed from a proposal presented to the Village board and the chamber. There are still some more research and discussions that needs to take place with business owners on the matter.
- Roundabouts will be going in along Highway 138.
- A question was asked about the status of the hotel project. Mike Gracz responded saying Paul needs to do rezoning for hotel approval. The process had a little bit of a snag with the economy but is now moving along.

➤ **Announcements**

- The storage area needs to be cleaned out, preferably by month's end. Anyone who can help for a couple hours should contact Dave Mastos. Dan Bertelson offered to help.
- On April 24, The Wood Cycle is holding a grand opening and twine-cutting ceremony to benefit the Oregon/Brooklyn Habitat for Humanity from 4:30-6:30 PM. The Wood Cycle is located at 1239 Fish Hatchery Road.
- Reminder for everyone to pay \$8 for lunch, if they haven't yet done so.

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

Remember: Next Membership Meeting is April 16, 2009; 7:30AM-9:00AM

Featured Topic: Communications Part 1 – Communicating Effectively To Customers

Venue: Oregon Family Restaurant, 768 N. Main Street

➤ **Adjournment.** Meeting adjourned at 1:04 PM.

Meeting Minutes taken by Kristin McGuine.