



DOWNTOWN LAKEVILLE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

November 19, 2007

Attendees

Larry Werner, Tom Barnard, Candy Retka, Adam Kienberger, Brandon Lichty, Nancy P. Smith, Wendy Wulff, Kris Pommerenke, Bev Keeley, Tracy Hummelgard, Mike Jetchick, Roz Peterson, Judy Tschumper.

Facilitator – President Nancy P. Smith

City of Lakeville Update – Adam Kienberger

Adam reported new business openings: Best Buy, Bremer Bank, Cub Foods, Holly's Centre Stage Dance, New Market Bank, Platt Dental and Porterhouse Restaurant. Opening in the next month: Train America, Family Health Clinic and Kazolly's Sweet Shop. The Copper Bleu Restaurant has closed; no word on what will happen to the building. New projects under way are Barry Hill, Deluxe Deli and Seattle Sutton located in a new commercial building on Kenrick Avenue. A Taco restaurant will be opening off County Road 70 near the McStop.

There is a City Council meeting the evening of November 19th. Lakeville North high school students have promoted and Council will proclaim "Entrepreneur and Promotional Week", December 3 to December 10. The Council will have the EFH proposal for the bowling facility on County Road 46 back on the Council's agenda to consider approval of the final plat. Negotiations are on going with the county and neighborhood regarding road connections.

City Council member Mark Bellows received the "Legacy" award presented by Lakeview Bank for his volunteer work as a chaplain with the Lakeville Police Department.

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Wendy has been appointed to two Metropolitan Council boards – the Land Use Advisory Board and the Transportation Advisory Board.

Negotiations between the City and Holly Hewitt regarding public parking in the area behind the Ben Franklin store and others continue. It appears that it will be 2008 or the beginning of 2009 before an agreement is in place. The property taxes for the new dance studio will not come on line until 2009. The agreement under negotiation would have the City managing and maintaining the parking lot with funding for the costs of such maintenance coming from the Special Service District.

Lakeville Area Chamber of Commerce Update – Candy Retka

The chamber offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 22 and 23 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. The Career Jamboree was held November 5th at Lakeville North high school; upcoming events include the County Wide After Hours on Thursday, November 29th at Crystal Lake Golf Club and Business Brew at Edward Jones on December 5th. The 2008 membership directory is about to go into production. Any business placing ads in the directory needs to have them in by the first week of December.

Lakeville Area Arts Center Update – Tom Barnard

December events include the *Best Christmas Pageant Ever* throughout the month of December; Holiday on Main December 1, a vocal ensemble – *Mila* – the evening of December 1, comprised of a nine member, women's vocal ensemble performing a Christmas concert of western and eastern style music; Dakota Valley Symphony's *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* on December 8 & 9 and *Sister's Christmas Catechism* on December 15.

Tom presented an arts banner that will be created monthly to showcase the events at the Arts Center. He asked for input on the banner and if businesses would be willing to place them in their businesses. Government buildings and sponsors of arts events have them on display. The membership felt that the banner size needed to be smaller to accommodate DLBA businesses that would want to display the banner. If the banner could be smaller businesses would be able to fit them in to storefront windows.

Heritage Library

The rain garden between City Hall and the library is almost finished and will be an attraction next year as the plants take hold and grow.

ISD 194 Update – Roz Peterson

Roz reported that there will be a recount on November 28th from the levy referendum because of the 15 vote difference. Levy question number 1 passed with questions 2 and 3 failing. The failed referendum means that the district will need to cut an additional \$1.3

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ISD 194 Update (cont'd)

in next year's budget and \$5.4 million in the following year. Specifically, the failed question 2 will mean increased class size and fees and decreased transportation. The key issue with school funding lies with the legislature who needs to take a look at changing the formula. More discussion ensued regarding the failed levy questions and management at the voting locations. Roz stated that more coordination and communication, a new relationship, is needed with recently merged Elko New Market. It was noted that we have a great community of which we should be proud. *Business Week* named Lakeville one of the top most affordable cities in which to live in the nation and another source placed Lakeville as the 4th best place in the nation to raise children. However, because these types of recognition are periodical it is difficult to keep such data front and center but it was widely publicized at the time these announcements were made. Roz mentioned that the district's audit report showed that the district has an extremely low balance that is below what is recommended. She also stated that the district has a wonderful website with in depth information.

News from Downtown Businesses

Candy announced that Discovery Financial Centers has signed a new lease and is in the process of expanding their space and Integra Health is also undergoing an expansion.

Brandon reported that a new roof is being installed on Mainstreet Coffee Café building and her expansion is underway with completion expected in mid January and the patio in place in the spring. Design plans for the expanded parking lot across from the post office have been finalized. Necessary approvals needed from the City will take place during the winter months and construction will begin when the frost is out of the ground.

A question was raised regarding the status of the proposed Market Park to be located at the intersection of Holyoke Avenue and 208th Street. Brandon and Adam reported that the park will be a public gathering place and will be a continuation to Pioneer Park Plaza with the intersection having pavers or stamped concrete to better denote it as a pedestrian crossing. Plans also call for a commercial building to be constructed and 208th Street would be closed but accommodate parking. Plans on this project are ongoing.

Larry announced that Whimsy/Red Hat Boutique will be closing by the end of the year. He stated that he has several prospects for the 800 square foot space and want to keep it as a retail use. Joel Fenske, Kingway Chiropractic, took over the space at the back of Whimsy from Stonebrook Family Chiropractic.

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Other Business

Judy presented a draft sketch of the layout of the Lakeville Mall for the Holiday on Main event on December 1st. Santa, Mrs. Claus, ECFE Book Fair and vendors' boutique, a face painter, mural coloring, reindeer, trolley ride and musical performances will all be located at this site. There will be musical performances at the Arts Center as well as an Art Exhibit and Sale. Members were encouraged to sign up to volunteer on that day and also to consider providing items (approx. 200) for the goody bags to be given away. We will be serving McDonald's orange drink this year with the cookies instead of hot cider.

Mike Jetchick invited businesses to place an ad to coincide with the Holiday on Main advertisement. This will result in a full page, full color ad to be published in the November 24th edition of Thisweek/Life & Times.

There was discussion on how we could dress up the vacant store fronts for the Holiday on Main event such as having holiday decorations or displays provided by downtown businesses. An initiative proposed the day following the DLBA membership meeting was to invite all students in kindergarten through third grade to color a snowman and have it on display during the holidays. Metro Equity Management has coordinated this project and letters and copies of the snowman were delivered to all the grade schools in District 194. Students are being asked to drop off their colored snowman by Wednesday, November 28 at the Metro Equity offices which will then be displayed on the vacant storefront windows on the west side of Holyoke Avenue.

A representative from the *Best of Lakeville* Quarterly Money Saver had approached staff regarding the DLBA sponsoring a page of advertisements from businesses. One page would be dedicated to DLBA businesses containing 12 ads that would cost a business \$200 per quarter. The consensus reached was that we would let the representative contact owners to see if there was enough demand to have a page dedicated to DLBA businesses.

The DLBA member placards were distributed to members to be displayed in a prominent place in their business.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2007, 10:00 AM, AT MAINSTREET COFFEE CAFÉ, UPPER LEVEL. (If renovation of the Café interferes with our meeting there, you will be advised of the new location when the agenda is sent.)