

VASHON MAURY ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: January 12, 2011
Location: Puget Sound Energy Conference Room
Presiding: President - Linda Bianchi
Attending: President Linda Bianchi, Treasurer Barbara Stratton, Secretary Nancy Sipple, Executive Director Debi Richards, Andrew Davis, Laura Griffith, Molly Reed, Natalie Sheard, Priscilla Schleigh Kimmel,
Absent/Excused: Patti McClements, Patte Wagner, Melinda Sontgerath

Guest Speaker: Rex Stratton

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS: Meeting was called to order at 8:40am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A correction was made to the minutes of the last meeting. Regarding the vote on the extra fee charged by Regalis for the font used on the logo, a clarification: Barbara and Andy objected and Patte abstained. With that correction, Barbara moved and Natalie seconded that the minutes be approved as amended. All were in favor.

GUEST SPEAKER: Rex Stratton, attorney, ran through a brief legal explanation of “trademark” vs. “copyright”. Discussion and questions followed. The Board agreed that it needs still further clarification from Terri Bassett, Regalis.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

New Board Members: Linda announced that the two new Board members are Ken Maaz and Alison Bockus. The two returning Board members are Patti McClements and Patte Wagner. All will be introduced at the 1/20/11 General Membership Meeting, 8:30am, Center for Sustainable Book Arts (the former VFW Hall).

School District Bonds: Following discussion, Molly moved and Barb seconded that the Board support the school district bond measures. All were in favor. We agreed that a strong school system is good for a healthy business environment. Linda read a Gig Harbor Chamber letter endorsing their school levy.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Barbara reviewed changes in cash balances last year vs. this year and reviewed the “P&L Budget Report vs. the “Actual Report”. We have used up considerable reserves for new Chamber projects and increased personnel expenses due to increased office hours. Discussion followed: ideas for another income producer to sustain the Chamber in addition to Strawberry Festival; “belt-tightening” measures; ideas for increasing membership. Natalie moved and Molly seconded that we approve the budget as written. All were in favor.

ED REPORT:

First Friday & Christmas Open House: Discussion: should these two events be on the same day? Debi will discuss with the Merchants’ Committee and we will add the question to our retreat agenda.

Hots: Preparation for the new issue is in progress.

General Membership Meeting on 1/20/11: Discussed agenda, location, date and guest speakers.

Local Business Directory: Such a directory was last done in 2001. The Board discussed producing another one for distribution on the Island.

Job Nursery: Jay Becker joined in on the discussion. Should such a project be formed through the Town Plan (a sub-committee of the Community Council) or through the Chamber? In general, Chamber activities seem to be a parallel effort. Andy moved and Barb seconded that the Chamber Board support the Job

Nursery concept and will be responsible for framing the concept for the Town Plan. Jay and Barb will rewrite and clarify direction of the funding that must be submitted in May. All were in favor.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Health Insurance Committee: The committee is gathering information to determine if the Chamber can be considered a “group” for insurance purposes. It could be a benefit to membership by providing this opportunity to members and help business owners offer health insurance to their personnel.

Town Plan/Signage: Discussion postponed until a future meeting.

Board Retreat/Strategic Planning: Barb stressed that the Board needs to tackle the issue of strategic planning at its upcoming retreat. All Chambers are asking themselves tough questions: what do they do? what are their core functions?

OTHER DISCUSSIONS: A short discussion followed on encouraging artist membership. Should they be “auxiliary members”? More discussion to follow.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: To be decided – before or after the Board Retreat?

Nancy Sipple, Secretary, Vashon Maury Island Chamber of Commerce