

VASHON MAURY ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: April 13, 2011
Location: Puget Sound Energy Conference Room
Presiding: Patti McClements, President
Attending: Patti McClements, President, Barbara Stratton, V.P., Laura Griffith, Treasurer, Nancy Sipple, Secretary, Debi Richards, E.D., Linda Bianchi, Alison Bockus, Andrew Davis, Ken Maaz, Molly Reed, Natalie Sheard, Priscilla Schleigh Kimmel, Melinda Sontgerath, Sue Stinson, Ad. Assistant

Visitor/Guest: Gib Dammann, Susan McCabe

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS: Meeting was called to order at 8:30am.

GUEST SPEAKERS: Gib proposed an idea for a street dance event on Sept. 10, 2011, with the Portage Phil providing the music in the afternoon and a square dance in the evening. Attendance would be on-Island and family directed. Cost: \$3000-\$4000. Goal: benefit Burton B.A.R.C. Skate Park. Question: is the Chamber interested in endorsing the concept and/or participating? The Board was unanimous in agreeing to explore the possibilities. Barb and Debi will work with Gib at this exploration stage. Idea: make the street dance part of the "Welcome Vashon" program.

Susan explained that the Skate Park has benefited from some grants, but ongoing drainage issues have caused the project to be \$43,000 short. Her hope is that business owners will want to chip in to insure completion of the project, though the scope of the project may change depending on money raised. Discussion followed. Susan wants to use our mailing list for solicitation of "BARCing for Bucks" donations. This would be precedent-setting for the Chamber. Barb proposed establishing a policy and then considering this request in the light of that policy. Ken, Molly, Patti and Debi will work on establishing our policy guidelines on the use of our mailing list.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Corrections to March minutes: Linda Bianchi's name was listed twice and the Treasurer's Report will include: "ongoing management reporting will be on an accrual basis". Melinda moved and Linda seconded that the minutes be approved as amended. All were in favor.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Strategic Planning: Patti wants 100% participation when we meet to do strategic planning for the future. Discussion: how much time is required? Following the May Board meeting might be an option.

Patte Wagner: Following Patte Wagner's resignation from the Board, Patti offered 2 candidates to replace her: Gib Dammann and Robin Blair. Discussion followed. It was a tough choice, but the Board voted unanimously for Gib. Robin and some other good candidates will be considered for future open positions.

Windermere Office: Discussion: should the Chamber move its office to the former Windermere building? Proposal: we would pay \$750/month rent with no utilities, we would order supplies for the other occupants, we would schedule additional janitorial when necessary, we would maintain common space supplies, and Sue would act as a receptionist. The Board agreed unanimously to go to the next step of the negotiation on an explorative basis.

Website Re-work: Discussion: problems with the website and what to do about them. Patti recommended that, immediately, we create a new Strawberry Festival page to get through Festival (\$1000) and merge it with any future changes to the site. Molly moved and Natalie seconded this proposal. All were in favor with Andy abstaining. Going forward, Barb, Natalie, Melinda and Andy will work on website re-design which everyone agreed is critical.

TREASURER'S REPORT: More money is coming in and less is going out, and a detailed discussion followed. All agreed that there is a need for a "Budget vs. Actual" report on a monthly basis which Laura will provide in the future.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Logo Copyright and Trademark: Per Rex Stratton, it costs \$40 to file for a copyright on our logo and \$275 to file for a trademark. Rex will donate his fees for the filing.

Ferry Terminal Sign: There is an opportunity to erect a 5'X 6'3" sign on the ferry dock between the slips to welcome visitors to Vashon (installed by the Ferry System, paid for by the Chamber). We will need information on appropriate materials etc. and will put the project out for bid after determining those specifics.

Lodging Tour: Priscilla will participate in the planning.

Strawberry Festival: Sponsorships so far: Windermere - \$5000/music; John L. Scott - \$1500/Grand Parade; the Bianchis – Grand Marshal; Vashon Youth and Family Services and Thriftway – Youth Stage; Red Bicycle - \$500/Car Parade; US Bank – Street Dance. Discussion followed. Challenge: no sponsor for the Wine & Jazz and the Beer Garden yet.

Spring Fling: Scheduled for April 23, 2011, Saturday, 11:30am (Miss Bunny at noon).

VIGA Sponsorship: Discussion: last year we sponsored VIGA with \$500, but that \$500 is not in the current budget. Can we support VIGA at \$500 this year or at another level? Decision was tabled.

“Storefront Studio” As part of a \$95,000 King County grant for UW students to help re-design storefronts, \$10,000 has been directed to Vashon. Students will rent a “studio” space for 1 quarter and be available for consultation with Vashon merchants interested in improving their storefronts.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership Committee: Discussion: progress on contacting prospective, renewing and cancelling members. The Board agreed that we need a “Welcome to the Chamber” thank you gift bag.

Health Insurance Committee: Andy reported that his investigation into offering medical coverage to our members has proven that it is impossible. He recommended that we drop the offer from our brochure and website.

NOTE: The strategic planning session will be postponed in favor of a Chamber Board Strawberry Festival meeting to be held prior to the first general Festival meeting scheduled for May 3, Tuesday, 6:00pm. Specifics on when and where that meeting will be will follow.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 4:43pm

NEXT BOARD MEETING: May 11, 2011, 8:30am, Puget Sound Energy Conference Room
Nancy Sipple, Secretary, Vashon Maury Island Chamber of Commerce