

VASHON MAURY ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: May 11, 2011
Location: Puget Sound Energy Conference Room
Presiding: President – Patti McClements
Attending: President Patti McClements, Treasurer Laura Griffith, Secretary Nancy Sipple, Executive Director Debi Richards, Linda Bianchi, Alison Bockus, Gib Dammann, Andrew Davis, Ken Maaz, Molly Reed, Priscilla Schleigh Kimmel, Barbara Stratton, Sue Stinson, Ad. Assistant

Excused/Absent: Melinda Sontgerath, Natalie Sheard

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS: Meeting was called to order at 8:37am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Four corrections were made to the 4/13/11 minutes. The minutes were approved as amended.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

Washington Tourism Alliance: Washington State is cutting its entire tourism budget prompting the formation of the WA Tourism Alliance whose goal is “come to Washington!”. Patti and Debi attended its meeting. Our Chamber can join for a \$300-\$350 fee. Molly moved and Alison seconded that we participate. All were in favor.

Board Involvement: Nine Board positions end this year. Patti has worked on condensing the “Board member expectations” and asked for input. We will vote on the revised version at the next meeting.

New Member Welcome Gifts: Debi and Patti met with Elliott Sales in Tacoma (coffee cups, pens, scratch pads etc.). Discussion followed. The goal is about \$15.00/gift. Gib, Molly and Priscilla will explore more local options. Further discussion was tabled.

Chamber Donation Policy: Should we allow anonymous donations to the Chamber flagged for a specific purpose? We are committed to transparency. Debi will write a basic policy guide and the Board will vote by email.

Move to Windermere Building: Patti and Debi met with Greg Vornbrock regarding the proposed move to the former Windermere building. There are many pros and cons and other considerations. Discussion followed.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Laura presented the new “Budget vs. Actual” report. Ken questioned why wages are under budget. Laura will investigate and clarify. Laura stated that there is cash sufficient for current needs and she is watching receivables closely.

ED REPORT:

Strawberry Festival: Debi reported that sponsorships are coming in better than anticipated. She updated the Board on individual event planning. The Beer Garden Chair is still in doubt.

VIGA Sponsorship: VIGA requests the \$500 Chamber sponsorship for the Farmers’ Market that we have given in the past. Discussion: can we support one non-profit and not others? Decision: We will offer no monetary sponsorship but will continue with the farm stand guide.

Seattle Weekly: An ad for the Strawberry Festival (\$675) in the Seattle Weekly’s “Summer Guide” is in the budget, and all agreed to go ahead with it.

Small Business Awards: Dow Constantine has introduced “small business award” opportunities, and King County wants us to send a representative to a nomination group. Decision: the opportunity to nominate will be sent out to the general membership so the Vashon business community will have the voice.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership Committee: Ken urged Board members to make their assigned calls to renewing and non-renewing members and report back to him.

Non-Profit Fundraising Policies: Question: should we allow solicitations at our General Membership Meetings? Should presentations at these meetings be informational only and not requests for money/donations? Discussion followed. The Board decided that we need a larger conversation about for-profits vs. non-profits and how the Chamber can benefit these two types of businesses.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 10:45am.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: June 8,2011, 8:30am, Puget Sound Energy Conference Room

Nancy Sipple, Secretary, Vashon Maury Island Chamber of Commerce