

I. Preliminary

President Gaylene Tucker called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. Present for all or portions of the meeting:

Gaylene Tucker—Consumers Choice Insurance
Alison Manterola –Wal-Mart Distribution Center
Mike Bradshaw—Benton REA’s PowerNET
Dennis McDonald-Grandview Christian Church
Kathy Charvet—People for People
Becky Ruppert—Consumers Choice Insurance
DeLynn Otis—Clear Channel Radio Yakima
Lou Garcia—AABCO Transmissions

Guests:

Scott Staples, City of Grandview, City Manager
Elizabeth Alba, City of Grandview

II. Regular Business Items

The board reviewed the minutes for the Grandview Chamber board meeting held on September 11, 2006.

Corrections were made as follows: Norm was listed as a guest, but is a Board Member, and an addition to the Grandview School District Emergency Funding Request should be noted: The board discussed this issue at length, and there was a consensus of the board that, due to the limited funds that are available pursuant to the Chamber operating budget, requests for funding need to be submitted to the Grandview Chamber of Commerce before the Chamber budgeting process begins in the fall of each calendar year, and therefore the Grandview Chamber would not be able to authorize an expenditure of funds to the Grandview School District in response to the emergency funding request.

Becky Ruppert moved to accept the minutes for the Grandview Chamber board meeting held on 9-11-06 as corrected, and DeLynn Otis seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Financial Report:

The financial report for the month of August at the time of the meeting reflects a September, 2006 balance of \$3,517.28 in the general account; \$300.38 in savings, and \$1,677.08 in the tourism account which included a refund of \$178.10 from Display House for float decorations.

Mike Bradshaw moved to accept the financial report as presented. Kathy Charvet seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. Unfinished Business:

Grape Stomp:

Elizabeth Alba reported that the Grape Stomp went very well. The weather was perfect and attendance was good. A total of 18 teams participated in the Grape Stomp. The committee from this year would like to continue the event planning next year. There was 100% participation with volunteers. All pledged donations are in except two, Benton REA and Smuckers. Ticket donations amounted to \$3,268.25 plus \$28.00 in late T-shirt sales for a total of \$3,296.25. Expenditures were \$2,721.42 leaving a positive net income of \$574.83. The amount of \$652.80 was earned from the sales of tee shirts. It was requested that these funds be start-up monies for next year's Grape Stomp. It was decided to look at this request at the Budget meeting scheduled for December. Everyone agreed that Elizabeth and her committee did an excellent job and she received a round of applause for her efforts.

Seminars with YVCC Update:

Gaylene reported that Sunnyside and Prosser chambers are on board with regard to participating in the seminars, and 700 flyers advertising the seminars will be distributed. The first seminar topic will be on marketing, and it will be held on 10-11-06 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. From all reports, it looks like members are signing up for the first seminar, and it should be a good turnout.

Spring Hill Press Map of Sunnyside, Grandview, Prosser:

The introduction letters regarding the maps have been sent out to all three Chambers. So far Grandview holds the lead in sales. Sample maps are available in the Chamber office. The Grandview Chamber would get 5% of any advertising sales. A total of 50 ads are to be sold, and the Grandview Chamber members would need to purchase at least 10 ads for the project to be viable.

Awards Banquet:

The awards Banquet is scheduled for November 16th. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. The doors will open for the event at 6:00 p.m. Countryside

Catering will be providing meals. The tickets are printed at \$18.00 if purchased before the dinner, and the fee will be \$20.00 at the door. Anyone interested in selling tickets or purchasing one for the dinner can pick them up at the Chamber office. There are also tickets available at Key Bank, the Grandview Herald, Washington Mutual, and the City of Grandview city hall location. Nomination forms are also available, only a couple has come in at this time. Thirteen of the 21 plaque sponsors have paid.

Haunted House:

The annual Grandview Chamber Haunted House event will be held this year on Friday October 27 and Saturday October 28 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. The street closure should go through, still waiting for H.R. Block to sign off. We will be working with the Police Department this year. Wal-Mart has 20-25 volunteers helping with set up. There will be food sales, ticket sales, and game booth volunteer opportunities. A meeting is scheduled for Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. at the Grandview Police Department, and the Grandview High School Drama Department plans on attending the meeting. There will be an announcement in the Grandview School District October issue advertising the Haunted House. The Chamber is asking members to bring a bag of candy to the membership meeting. Dennis McDonald volunteered to help with the event.

Nominating Committee:

Two individuals, Elizabeth Alba and Tammy Ouellette, are interested in becoming Board members. There will be an announcement at the next membership meeting to see if there are any others interested. Nominations will be made and posted on the website. The positions will be voted on at the next Board Meeting.

IV. New Business

Cocoa and Carols

Becky Ruppert volunteered to co-chair the committee and will solicit Holly Castle to be the other co-chair. Dennis McDonald offered to assist as needed. The committee will determine the date, time, obtain the tree, and contact the High School band. Volunteers are needed. Some portable gas heaters are also needed. This event will be held on 12-1-06 at 6:30 p.m.

Annual Events Calendar

An Events Calendar was discussed. A list of all Events the Chamber is involved in could be made available so that the Community and other Communities could be made aware of ongoing activities. This would help

promote tourism and develop more participation at the events. If dates are set early enough, the thought is that there would be more participation. Board members were asked to list all activities, locations, dates and times of events so that this calendar could be developed.

Tour of Homes

Clint Adamson, a local developer, spoke with Gaylene and is interested in working with other developers and the Chamber in getting a Lower Valley Tour of Homes similar to the upper valley Tour of Homes. DeLynn noted that she had been involved in the Yakima Tour of Homes, and that it is quite an expensive venture, and that he can get connected with the Yakima venue and get homes on their list. In order to promote the area, and encourage developers and realtors to get involved, it was noted that the Grandview Chamber would get information to Clint on other Chamber office information and contacts, Yakima Valley Tour of Homes, etc., so that he could obtain their endorsements with regard to the idea.

Office Report

The search for the Office support person is ongoing. Currently there is a temp, Lorena, who works from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., answering phones, opening mail and emails. She is from the Tri-Cities area and is not real familiar with the local area. Would like to find a local person to fill the position. There are currently two resumes being considered, will be advertising again, and calling WorkSource.

Central Washington Chamber Coalition

DeLynn reported on a meeting she attended on behalf of Gaylene. There are 10 Chambers involved, each Chamber has a delegate and attends monthly meetings at the Yakima Chamber. The purpose is to determine the most pressing issues of the area, and have the representative, Ron Newbry, from the Coalition present them in Olympia in front of the legislature. The information would be forwarded to the Chambers (a Spanish version is in the process). The Coalition plan on starting a PAC fund. There might also be opportunities to attend a "Day in Olympia", and the rep. would present pertinent information at the Chamber meetings. This person would actually lobby for the Chambers, about the pressing issues of this area. At this point they are looking for buy-in from the local Chambers. The cost for the representative is \$750 which the 10 Chambers would split. They are looking for an answer by October 18th. Mike Bradshaw asked if Mr. Newbry could present to the Board. The idea of having a unified position on local issues, and getting those issues to Olympia sounds like a good idea, and the Coalition could be a way for the voice of the small businesses to be heard. The Zillah and Wapato Chambers are going to participate. It was decided, at this point that DeLynn

would attend further meetings to get more information before a decision can be made, as to how many of the other Chambers are on board and if we would be able to fund this activity.

Grandview City News

Scott Staples presented information on how the Grandview downtown revitalization process is going, and the need to identify resources, improve infrastructure, city streets, sidewalks and lighting. Discussion with the state regarding a Community Development Block Grant was held, and the advice was that certain criteria had to be met and in place and that a Planning only grant might be the best step. The \$25,000 grant could allow them to take the time to develop a step-by-step plan, how to implement the plan and then go forward and apply for the CDBG grant.

There are discussions going on now with Bruce Humphreys of YVCC, and Robert Ozuna, a grant consultant, to expand Economic Development and develop a Business Resource Center through a \$600,000 grant to help serve the local area.

In addition, the improvement of downtown building facades is being developed with the help of the University of Washington Department of Architecture, and their interested students. This effort is being headed up by Jim Nichols. The school would set up a studio in town, and help business owners understand how their buildings could look which would provide an incentive to the owner to update the façade. Jim will be sending a proposal to Scott within the next two weeks with regard to how this project would be structured.

The City and the Rotary members are very excited about the Downtown revitalization efforts and working toward grants to meet that goal.

Agenda for Member Meeting:

The items listed in the board meeting agenda to be presented at the next general membership Chamber meeting were discussed.

The next Chamber board meeting will be held on November 6th, 2006 at noon at City Hall.

At 1:28 p.m. the regular business meeting was adjourned.