

Exira Chamber Meeting
September 13, 2011
Exira Medical Clinic

Present: Katie Rasmussen, Abby Rasmussen, Amber Wilson, Riann Hansen, Margy Hansen, Carol Lea Rasmussen, Sandy Bauer, Joan Shaffer, and Jenn Marxen.

Old Business

- A. Grocer Store adhoc committee met August 23rd
 - 1. Margy reports: Golden Hills Resource Conservation (group to help small businesses start) recommend that we get outside vendors for produce
 - a. growmarketfarm.com – help with business plan
 - 2. Other resources are Iowa Food Coop (West Des Moines), Hawkeye Food Distribution, Shelby Co. Economic Development
 - 3. Carl's Tomato/Tomato wanted another site to produce/distribute his product but it is most likely a "dream"
 - 4. Former grocery store building will probably be tied up in law suit for some time
 - 5. www.rurdev.usda.gov detail step by step process to start coop
 - 6. No return call from Fareway
 - 7. Margy will invite Anita grocer to speak to Exira Chamber
 - 8. Will have shoe box questionnaire at Abby's table, Lion's Building, and Peggy's hay maze, asking public what they want to see in a grocery store
- B. Gazebo signage – has been ordered and will be delivered to City Clerk office
- C. Fall Festival
 - 1. Exira Chamber will sponsor bounce house and slide from 9 AM – 3 PM
 - a. Abby will pick up on Friday; need volunteer to return prior to 7 PM Saturday
 - b. Workers 9 – 10 AM Amber
 - 10-11 AM Joan
 - 11-12 Riann
 - 12-1 PM Jenn
 - 1 – 2 PM Katie
 - 2 – 3 PM Carol Lea
 - c. Will need 2 outlets
 - d. Charge: \$5/child to max of \$15/family for all day
 - e. Abby will bring table, chair and stamp
 - 2. Unsure if putt putt golf will get set up/used
 - 3. Marlene Ballou will provide buggy rides
 - 4. Chili cook-off in the flood park (Ben Simpson)
 - 5. Rich Griffin will do hayrides
- D. Chamber Challenge: winners – Joan Watson (Irwin), Kaye Rasmussen (Exira); Abby will notify
 - 1. Each winner will be given #10 - \$10 vouchers to be spent in any of the participating stores
 - 2. Suggestions: increase advertising, attach to major event, start E-Newsletter, increase business Participants, limit dollar amount to so much per day or visit
 - 3. Had 32 entries

New Business

- A. Abby will be attending a brainstorming event September 15, 2011 at the Extension Office; plan to Discuss activities in Audubon County and how we can work together
- B. Jane Houchins has located urns for Main Street at \$140/urn; Amber shared that the Lion's may be interested in purchasing on for their building
- C. February dinner theater
 - 1. Riann will ask Spartan Club if they have plans for February or March
 - 2. Abby will check with theater company for available dates in February or March
- D. Carol Lea reported from Audubon County Economic Development
 - 1. An insurance company, which would employ 10 people is interested in Audubon County
 - 2. Sarah Gomez (Midwest Economic Development) is interested in attending our meeting; she is interested in our efforts at establishing a grocery store; she says we can advertise buildings for sale (like Julie's) on their site
 - 3. Dennis McCool has a lawn mower shop in Audubon and is looking for outlet to sell his merchandise.
- E. The next Community Club meeting will be October 10, 2011 at 7:30 PM

The next Exira Chamber meeting will be October 11, 2011 at 5 PM at Log Cabin Quilting.

The meeting adjourned at 6 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Shaffer
Secretary