

Exira Chamber of Commerce
April 9, 2010
12 noon
Exira Council Meeting Room

The regular meeting of the Exira Chamber of Commerce was preceded by a ribbon cutting at “The Hair Shack”, proprietor, Shelby Mennenoh. Shelby held an open house from 4 PM – 8 PM.

Present: Judy Wheeler, Brenda Bengard, Judy Bintner, Abby Rasmussen and Austin, Jill Christensen, Dave and Joan Schramper, Amber Wilson, Sandy Bauer, Sheila Kearney, Judy Hansen and Jennifer Marxen.

Secretary’s report was read by Carol Lea Rasmussen.

Treasurer’s report (Judy Bintner) \$1342.21 and Judy Hansen has some Festival of Lights money to turn in.

Old Business

A. Update on Jason White, Western Iowa Advantage Midwest Partnership Economic Development Audubon County

1. Suggestions for our business district and community

- a. We need to encourage businesses looking at Exira for a business opportunity. These interested people need help to find a building and if buildings are owned by other people we need to find out if they are interested in selling their business and informing the interested party
- b. Jason is anxious to get together with Exira Town Council in regards to informing them about what Midwest Partnership can do to help them with looking at low interest loan availability that the city can assist business owners with (TIFF). Building improvements/building maintenance
- c. All present main street building were discussed as below:
 1. Thompson building (old Ford garage) has been rented previously; currently, nothing in the building. There has been interest in the building but unsure what Thompson would like to do with building.
 2. Casey’s “old building” currently is still environmentally unsafe. Last check by Casey’s done 4/17/10. Checked every 4 months and when safe there will be a “for sale” sign on the building. This building was closed 4/16/05. Information per CLR’s call to Corporate office 4/6/10
 3. Hilsabeck building: currently for sale
 4. Old Laundromat: workshop for Brandon Akers
 5. Old video store: currently owned by R. Nelson
 6. Wilkerson building: Margie and Dave Hansen are checking with the Wilkerson family about purchasing but still unsure of Jeanette’s plans
 7. Old café: rented by owner but current renters moving out
 8. Antique Junction: Betty Drees owns; questionable plans
 9. Twigs: currently for sale. Hopeful to remain a gift shop and store will remain open until sure of sale
 10. Library: have had several meetings this past month. Grants are being addressed. Approached the City Counsel this month. Cathy Christ is helping with planning
 11. Stage II: Abby reported the old carpet is gone and the old pad cleaned off. Painting, new carpet. Hopeful to open the 2nd week in May and possible open house and ribbon cutting May 14th

12. Greenbrier Golf Course: per Bill Nelson, the club house is gutted. Building is in good shape. Food for golfers available when basement is done. Class Reunions will be taken if interested in golfing. No catering at this time. Still a lot to do and the carpentry crew is not working right now. Golf course memberships available and courses ready. Course looks good and other improvements have been made. Open house and ribbon cutting when ready
13. Update on Medical Clinic: Dr. Brokke started April 5th. Is looking for some place to live/rent/buy. Opportunities have been mentioned to him in and around Exira. Encourage Exira business people to stop in and introduce and welcome him. Carol Lea talked to Tom Smith and he would like an open house and coffee for him. Need to talk to Joan. Hospital or Chamber could do.
14. Free Clinics of Iowa: no new information. Dr. Shaffer reported to Shared Ministry and ELC council last month

B. Exira Community Club met April 8th

1. Rec Center has been painted. Quite a change. Old paneling painted as well. Cost of \$1275(?)
2. Approved a bench for walking trail
3. Easter egg hunt – Saturday, April 3rd at City Park; was well attended
4. Current CC Membership Drive underway. Cards have been sent. Money to assist with Rec Center painting, new chairs/tables/sound system
5. A new sound system for Rec Center was discussed. The old one needs improvement
6. Secure Shred Solutions – May 15th, 9-12 in Rec Center lot; shred private papers 3 grocery bags full then \$2 for each additional bags. Cost Community Club \$500 for 3 hours. There will be ads and flyers about this.
7. May 1st, Hwy 71 garage sale (Brayton, Exira, Audubon) contact J Sorensen for your sale for flyers
8. July 3, 4, 5 activities – no theme selected yet; grand marshals – Exira Vikettes basketball team and coaches
 - a. Carnival will be here July 3,4,5 (Candy Land carnival)
 - b. July 3rd – Road Run/walk; food served by Nishnabotna Conservation group as previous years; barbecue in the evening (time uncertain, last year 5 PM – 8 PM), entertainment, kiddies’ parade in park; street dance (band uncertain) 9 PM - ?
 - c. July 4th – ecumenical services, kiddies’ tractor pull (3 PM – 5:30 PM), alumni coffee, entertainment in park – fun activities in park being planned by E Club (“Million in a Minute”); fireworks at night. Would like rodeo but unlikely this time due to time constraint. Will work on one next year. Looking for entertainment prior to fireworks (9 PM). Consider asking “Travelin Light” or Exira Community Band. Also looking for additional vendors for park: Granny’s Kettle Corn, Buckingham’s Country Sno and 2 vendors that has been to Elk Horn for Tivoli Fest
9. June 27th – can, motorcycle, semitrailer, tractor show (show until 2 PM in Exira City park; Lion’s will serve 12 noon lunch in their building)

C. Exira Town Council – next meeting April 12, 2010

1. Business directory approved by Council – suggested Community Club help with cost of printing. Brenda didn’t get copy to Judy Bintner for the Community Club meeting; Brenda will get cost from Atlantic printing and the Chamber may pay for a few (100?) copies to be made available to businesses. Chamber approved paying if the cost not too great. Brenda will report back next meeting.

New Business

- A. American Cancer Society Audubon Co Walk/Run will be June 19th, registration at 7 AM for Fun Run with event closing at 12:30 PM – 1 PM, Exira City Park
 1. Carol Lea had packets, posters, table tents available to give to people who attended the meeting. Packets were available to encourage Exira businesses to

walk in the event. The Lions to serve breakfast in the Lion's building 7 AM – 10 AM; Audubon Cattlemen to serve 10 A.M. – 12 noon in the park.

2. Bloominarias can be purchased in honor of/memory of before and during the event
 3. Entertainment on the gazebo stage during the event
- B. Farmer's Market advertising starting date of June 4th – October 29, 2010, 5 PM - ?; east side of park; no fee; encourage garden produce, baked goods, handwork, etc; contact Sandy Bauer or Jane Houchins
1. Sandy is making signs for Farmer's Market for west and east side of Exira as well as a small one for the street on east side of park; early advertising allows gardeners to plant larger gardens
- C. Additional discussion about getting dates for your events to Brenda and Marquee so too many things aren't on the same ay. March 20th there was 5 things in our county, all about the same time. If posted early it helps with planning and better attendance.
- D. Do your census! The census workers start the end of April to make house calls if you haven't done yours

The meeting adjourned at 1 PM. The next meeting will be May 14th.

Respectfully yours,
Carol Lea Rasmussen
Secretary Protem