

May 11, 2011

Exira Chamber Meeting

12 noon Council Room

Present: Abby Rasmussen, Traci Riesgaard, Jennifer Marxen, Judy Wheeler, Sandy Bauer, Judy Bintner, Amber Wilson

Secretary's Report: The minutes were presented to Abby and by group's consent were not read due to time constraint.

Treasurer's Report: Chamber Balance---\$1,038.51; Festival of Lights---\$961.31; Bill from Danish Village Voice---\$9.34. Farmer's Market State Listing and Audubon County Newspaper Bills yet to be received.

OLD BUSINESS

Farmer's Market Signs are up: May through October 4-7 pm. So far the Organic marketer from Oakland is coming and will be bringing produce, breads, jams, and jellies. The marketer reports a good response from the public and is hoping more marketers will join him as their gardens mature.

Ribbon Cutting at the Greenbriar on April 30, 2011 went well. Pictures of the ribbon cutting have already been in the paper.

Exira Clean Up Day on May 14, 2011 7a-9a Appliance pick-up; 8a-10a Youth of Exira will be assisting with the clean-up. Amber Wilson is organizing the clean-up. Brush will also be cleared by the Gazebo area by the bike trail, as well as by the Legion Park, Shelter House, Casey's, and dump ground. Lions will help with people loading appliances.

NEW BUSINESS

Studio M Ribbon Cutting/Open House: May 21, 2011-11a-5p-Ribbon Cutting with chamber at 2 pm. Other prospective business ribbon cuttings were also discussed but no dates were confirmed.

Chamber Challenge-June-August 2011: Abby suggested the businesses participate. 9 businesses will be involved. Each business gives \$10-\$100. A drawing for the Chamber Pot of \$50 will take place at end of challenge. Postcards would be picked up at one of the 9 businesses participating. Each patron would spend total of \$25 and then their name would be entered into the drawing. Front of the postcard would have information about the Chamber project. The patron would keep track of how much they spend at each business and when the total is reached they are eligible for the drawing. For the Chamber's \$10 they would be promoted on the card. Jennifer Marxen will help Abby create the card. The Red Barn/Casey's and bars would be excluded this time. Posters will be hung in the businesses participating.

Other suggestions for Chamber: Jennifer Marxen suggested contest for the "Prettiest Yard" or Community Improvement project. Audubon Chamber sends out a newsletter and this may be something Exira should do. Make sure Brenda lists all upcoming

events as well as local papers.

Grocery Store: Stockholders Meeting planned for May 23rd at 7p a Rec Center. Jeff Crocker currently behind in payments.

Audubon County Free Clinic-Starting June 2, the free clinic will be housed in the Exira Lutheran Church. The clinic will take place 2x a month, 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 5:30-8:30p. Information has been placed in church bulletins, newsletters, local papers, and fliers. If questions, contact Katie Rasmussen. Organizational meeting with the volunteers will be May 19th.

Exira City Council-No report

Exira Library-Sandy Bauer reported that the building next to the current library is being cleaned out by J. Powell. Cathy Christ will do the architectural design and construction will start in July. Sandy was concerned about the library remaining open during the construction. Abby suggested using previous Twigs building for temporary housing. This may be considered or possibly Library on Wheels. Sandy talked about a different Summer Reading program. The preschool program may be on hold for this summer. An adult, teen, tweens summer reading program is being considered by the Library board. Watch the paper for details. Other adult training programs were discussed: Farm safety programs, disaster training, and CPR training. Fundraising is continuing-granola until it's gone, Schwann's Truck purchase. Glass blocks for the front of the building will be sold for \$60 with family name. Memorials for the area at the bike trail. The fundraising ideas will be discussed at the Board meeting Monday evening.

Gazebo by the Bike trail. The county is filling in the dirt. PCS poured the concrete. Gazebo to be picked up and set up. Gazebo will be picked up and set up. Landscaping and rocks to accent. Teresa Joens working on water fountain memorial project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Club-Judy Bintner reported we have a carnival for the 4th. They will set up on Sunday and hopefully rides will be going on Sunday evening and day of the 4th. There will be 4-5 rides, inflatables, 4-5 games, and food truck. Possibly some additional vendors are coming. The Rodeo will be July 3rd at 1p and Brett Rold is the contact person for this. Ecumenical Church service with 12n meal. Alumni Coffee will be at Lions Building with Class of '61 hosting. Saturday July 2nd there will be a community barbeque with entertainment, and the kiddie parade to precede the barbeque. Fun Run/5K/10k will be morning of July 2nd. "Stone Throw" will be the entertainment at the Saturday night dance from 9pm-?. On the day of July 4th, talent groups will be going on in the park, as well as tractor pull by the fire station. Fireworks will take place on 4th of July night.

Midwest Economic/Miscellaneous- Carol Lea reports no news on Interstate/Hwy 71 business. "Caterpillar" possibly future site if business good in Atlantic. No new person to replace Jason White yet. Becky Thompson states she and Randy are thinking about probably businesses for the front of Larson Ford but none yet. Back of building is families shop area.

Next meeting will be at Sheila's Tea Room at 12n on June 8th.

Updates:

Farmers Market: Going good. Community can expect 2 more marketers mid June.

Chamber Challenge: Abby states "The Chamber Challenge cards are in the businesses participating." Businesses are promoting the challenge with fliers or more information.

Community Club- Club hasn't met since last Chamber meeting. The activities remain as the May Chamber notes states. No posters are up yet. The Community Club can always use volunteers.

Audubon County Free Clinic-No patients were seen on opening night of June 2. Advertising continues. Word of mouth will also create success of clinic.

Midwest Economic/Miscellaneous: Interviews for Jason White replacement are continuing. Sign for the bike trail is being ordered.

Grocery Store-Stockholders meeting held on May 23rd. No payments from J. Crocker and the board is not refunding any money at this time. Stockholders present question what board is going to do. The current board members will remain on the board and no meeting planned again until next year.

Exira City Council-Council is working on grant for sidewalks. They feel the sidewalks need handicap approaches from the curbs. Next meeting is June 13th.

Exira Library: The demolition of the building next to the library is complete except for one wall. Cathy Christ is currently working with the bids according to guidelines. Fundraising ideas are still being affirmed. The library board meets again on June 16th. Sandi Bauer may have more information.

Our community thanks the Exira Legion for "The Wall", a memorial of Iowa soldiers lost in war. The memorial was here from May 15th-May 21st.