

Exira Chamber of Commerce
September 10, 2010
Exira City Council Meeting Room
12 noon

Present: Abby Best, Brenda Bengaard, Judy Bintner, Judi Hansen, Jane Houchins, Margy Hansen, Jen Marxen, Carol Lea Rasmussen, Joan Shaffer, Amber Wilson, and Judy Wheeler.

Minutes from the August meeting were reviewed.

Treasurer's report: \$1348.92

Old Business

- A. Midwest Vision – Still working on helping Accu Steel (apparently, roads are at issue)
- B. ACED – believe that there are people looking for buildings to open new businesses; please be aware of this
 - 1. Valley Business Park – no further action at this time
- C. Grocery Store – closed prior to August 31st
 - 1. Board unsure of direction to take
 - 2. Need more current operating figures to make proper assessment.
 - 3. There is an interested party who would like to be an employee, with option to buy after determining success
 - 4. Need to discover if community is willing to support grocery store
 - 5. Abby shared name of Ken Gjersvik (Bartlet and West) who would be interested in helping with community evaluation (for a fee)
- D. Margie Shaffer and Carol Lea wrote for grant to Southwest Iowa Endowment for signage
- E. Farmer's Market – feel that it was successful however, some vendors may have carried over their produce from week to week and therefore, not "fresh"
- F. Fall Festival – need help in park; businesses owners encouraged to participate by decorating windows, etc
 - 1. The Chamber basket will be on display in the Rec Center; will need volunteers to sit at table and hand out directories, perhaps, answer questions about grocery store; may even consider asking people to fill out survey on grocery store
- G. Lion's Tractor Pull – minimally successful (other similar events have seen a decline as well)
- H. Party in the Park – successful; entertainment and food good; consider advertising earlier and organizing games better (approximately #100 attended)

New Business

- A. Future projects – Lion's wondering if Chamber would like to pair up with them in a fund raiser (dinner theater, talent night, etc)

Reports

City council (Brenda Bengaard) considering use of TIF for water and sewage in West Town

Community Club (Judy Bintner) considering different carnival for July, 2011

The next meeting will be October 8, 2010 at 12 noon in the Council Meeting room.

The meeting adjourned at 1 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Shaffer
Secretary