Directors present: Ann Seago, Troy White, Jim Riley, Barb Hegenbarth, Tammy Paulus, Diane McMahon, Sarah Livermore and Renee Brenengen.

Directors absent: Kim Gorka, Mike Happel, Chris Petersen and Kim Byom.

Members Present: Chuck Gauger (Trempealeau County Times), Catherine Swing (Galesville Pharmacy), Spencer Hegenbarth (Our Town) and John Graf (Graf Media).

Guests: Yarrow Brown (Big River Magazine)

Meeting was called to order at 7:35am by President Jim Riley.

**Secretary’s Report**: Troy W. made a motion to accept February minutes after adding “to sponsor at the $500 Gold Level” to Item A under Other Business. Renee B. seconded the motion it carried.

**Treasurer’s Report**: Report was distributed. Ann S. made motion to accept the report and Troy W. seconded it. Motion carried with the notation the Chamber needs to have a budget in place.

**Committee Reports:**

**Agri-Business:** No report.

**Economic Revitalization & Development:** Jim R. introduced a round table discussion to begin building a fabric of communication to promote business relationships within the community. Each business spent a couple of minutes detailing how they are currently working together as partners to make our community more compelling and vibrant.

**Historic Preservation, Beautification & Design: 1) Old Main:** Jim R. reported on the status of the ongoing series of Friday night programs at Old Main called ***Gale Star Music*** ***Night.*** He commented it is easier to get the performers than the audience. One of the challenges is no elevator access. The next performance on March 22nd is the G-E-T Variety Show. There will also be a classical cellist in May. Plans are in the works for musicians from UW-L to perform at Old Main this fall.

 **2) A.A. Arnold House:** Ann S. reported they are in the 2nd phase of their $20-25,000 outside project to repair the exterior brick. They are also conducting a calendar raffle to raise more funds. Another fundraising idea is to have donors consider sponsoring a room at A.A. Arnold House.

**Organization & Membership:** Renee B. distributed a report showing 34 membership renewals have been received so far including one new business: Culligan Water Conditioning. Our total to date is 30 businesses and 4 individuals. Second notices will go out the end of March.

**Promotion & Tourism: 1) G-E-T Showcase** was held on Sunday, March 3rd at the high school. There were 42 vendors using 46 of the 51 booths available. There were 3 food vendors in the cafeteria. The District Art Show was in the atrium, hallway and cafeteria. Live entertainment was also provided in the center of the gym. Net income for this event was $526. The Showcase Committee reported that attendance was good and seemed to be up from last year.

**2)** The spring **City Wide Sale** will be on Saturday May 11th.

3) The next Promotion & Tourism Committee meeting will be on Thursday, March 21st at 7 p.m. at Renee’s house.

**Website:** Some interesting statistics from last month: 359 have visited the calendar page, 394 the members listing, 457 G-E-T Showcase page, 223 the Walking Tour page (163 of those also viewed the pdf) and 259 viewed the Farmers Market page. Total number of hits = 2267.

**Old Business**:

1. Renee B. reported back that the only quote we have for storage insurance is from Ristow Insurance at a cost of $204 to cover $10,000 in contents with a $250 deductible. Sarah L. made a motion to accept this quote and Tammy P. seconded it. Motion carried.
2. Rental of pie oven – No further information available
3. Ice Skate storage – Nothing more available

**Other Business**:

1. Yarrow Brown, Marketing Director of ***Big River Magazine*** presented reasons we would want to continue placing ads in their regional, environmental and lifestyle magazine about life, work and play on the Upper Mississippi River. In previous years, the Chamber has split the cost of this advertising with the City of Galesville. Last year, through a misunderstanding, our ad was downsized from a half page to a ¼ page. This year we want to return to the larger size ad and Big River will also offer business card ads at $80 per issue for local merchants to appear on our Galesville page. Diane M. made a motion to return to the larger ad, increase our advertising to a full year (six issues) and ask the City to split the cost with us. The Chamber’s portion would be $450. Tammy P. seconded the motion. After some discussion, the motion carried.
2. Sarah L. read notice from Postmaster reminding Chamber members to not park in the spots reserved for city employees.
3. CD matures soon. Since interest rates are not favorable, Ann S. made a motion to move these funds into a more accessible account. Motion was seconded by Tammy P. and carried.
4. Jim R. proposed an idea to help promote chamber businesses through a printed listing that would give them more recognition and visibility. It was decided to have the Promotion and Tourism Committee research it further and then bring it back for discussion.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 3, 2013 at 7:30am at the Library Community Room.

Tammy P. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Diane M. seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:57a.m.

Submitted by

Sarah Livermore, Secretary