

GRAND BEND & AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Executive Meeting

Wednesday December 17, 2008 – 9:30am
The Schoolhouse Restaurant, Grand Bend

- 1) The meeting was called to order by vice president, Bob Urhig, at 9:55am.
Present: Bob Urhig, Jack Powell, Brianne Haiste, Julie Murphy, George Appel, Phil Gaudreault and Christine Bregman.
- 2) **Motion: moved by Julie and seconded by Brianne to accept the agenda with the addition of 3 vii) Website solution and 3 viii) Dave Bartlam recommendation. Carried.**
- 3) Previous Minutes:
 - a) No errors or omissions.
 - b) **Motion: moved by Julie and seconded by George that the minutes from the November 19, 2008 meeting be accepted. Carried.**
 - c) Business Arising
 - i) The parking transaction statistics are pending.
 - ii) Jack has sent an email to organizations that deliver accommodation inspection services and he will report costs and conditions at the next meeting. It was suggested that the Chamber manager conduct the inspections in 2009 and advise members of issues. A checklist could be developed based on the Code of Ethics. Jack will collect more information.
 - iii) Christine will request a copy of the Lambton Shores Sign Bylaw and get quotes for a rooftop sign advertising GrandBendTourism.com.
 - iv) The County of Lambton has given Tourism Sarnia Lambton (TSL) a mandate to 2011. Funding will be assessed through the County's 2009 budget. Christine will draft a letter requesting that a Chamber representative be a member on the TSL board.
 - v) **Motion: moved by Julie and seconded by Brianne to donate \$1000 to Aquafest to support their media relations campaign. Carried.**
Discussion: A representative from Aquafest will be invited to give a presentation at the next general meeting.
 - vi) Lambton Shores is creating a Culture and Heritage Passport for 2009. Details are included with the minutes.
 - vii) **Motion: moved by Brianne and seconded by George to purchase the Nabernet website software solution providing the company can provide proof of financial stability. Carried.**
 - viii) The recommendation re: Dave Bartlam was tabled.
- 4) **Motion: moved by Phil and seconded by Jack to accept the Financial Report. Carried.**
- 5) Correspondence

- a) Lambton Shores is preparing a report on the Grand Bend Main St. parking issues.
 - b) Several members have suggested that aggressive policing and bylaw enforcement are having a negative effect on tourism. Christine will inquire if there is a policing committee for Grand Bend and will draft a letter regarding this concern.
 - c) Information about the Beyond the City Lights Rural Tourism Conference was tabled.
 - d) Lambton Shores Council has increased the 2009 budget for beach lifeguards. Christine will request more detailed information regarding lifeguard hours and for a copy of the Beach Safety audit when it is ready.
 - e) Christine will ask the Group Insurance Plan to expand the Chamber's payment area to include Port Franks, Arkona and Forest.
 - f) A letter from Stantec was received outlining the emergency repairs to the Bayfield River Bridge on Highway 21.
 - g) The Grand Bend Community Foundation funding request was declined.
- 6) Manager's Report
- a) Monthly statistics and activities are included with the minutes.
 - b) Christine attended a *Celebrate Ontario* workshop in Sarnia. She learned the types of events that qualify for funding and is assisting Aquafest with their application.
- 7) The EDC has not met since last meeting.
- 8) New Business
- Christine will investigate the status of Grand Bend's Christmas lights.
- 9) The next meeting will be held on Wednesday January 28, 2009 at 9:30am at the Chamber Office.
- 10) The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.

Addendum:

- To better understand the local economy year-to-year, Christine will begin collecting attendance information from Grand Bend Motorplex, Huron Country Playhouse and Pinery Provincial Park. She will also send an annual Business Assessment Survey to the membership.

Signed: _____ Date: _____