

**Downtown Economic Development Committee
August 26, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.**

**Bj's Deli
Minutes**

Present: Sally Custer/Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce, Ione & Dale Olson, Marilyn Groth/Book Break, Merton Auger/City of Buffalo, Pat Szarke/Szarke Law Office, Rainer Pensky, Sue Olmschied/Lillians, Mark K./KleinBank, Mark Braatz & Wayne Gangyl/West Suburban Auto Sales and Doug Rippie/DRM

► **Car Show/September 12** – Mark Braatz gave an overview of the upcoming event. They have passed out over 1500 flyers to car drivers, passed out posters, and have 300 “goodie” bags they are starting to put together. They invited the committee to include something in the bags. They will soon be hanging banners and getting signs out on CR 25 and Hwy 55. They will also be advertising in the paper. Bondo Bob will be spinning records. Coborn's/PIF will be selling hot dogs and brats. American Legion will be selling hamburgers/hot dogs. St. Francis (per Pat) will also be set up in her parking lot selling sloppy joes and other items. Rainer suggested the Shiners could play live music. Mark will follow up with Rainer.

► **Pink Light District/October 1** – Sue described the upcoming Pink Light District event and handed out flyers. People can purchase a string of lights in honor of someone. They are looking for outside vendors and seeking businesses to do something festive, as well as decorate their storefronts with pink lights and more.

► **Deck the Halls/December 3-5** – Sally asked everyone to think about new ideas for the 3 day event starting off the Christmas season. Rainer said in Germany they have tents outside with various types of vendors. Pat suggested looking into Rochester's event.

► **BPAL** – Buffalo Prepared for Life Committee has been looking into the getting small signs for over a company's door so that you could walk down the sidewalk and see what business is up ahead. Also they are researching getting the previous tenants signs removed from the building in accordance with a City Ordinance and uniform For Sale/Lease signs.

► **City Update** – Merton said they are now going to start fining the owner of the building across from BJ's Deli every time there is a violation. In the past several weeks there have been multiple violations from the people hanging out at the Vault. Sally is going to look into alternate locations that would be more suitable for that particular business. Merton said MEADA would be showing a big screen movie at Sturges Park the upcoming weekend.

► **Additional Items** – Pat wanted to know who owned the post office. Merton said the City owned the parking lot, but not the building. She thought the landscaping needed to be spruced up and others agreed. Merton said they have offered to upkeep the property, but their offer was declined. Sally will talk to Brad/Postmaster.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Sally Custer.

Next Meeting – September 23 at Bj's Deli.