

Downtown Economic Development Committee
July 23, 2008 - 9:00 a.m.
Bj's Deli
Minutes

Present: Sally Custer/Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce, Marilyn Groth/Book Break, Merton Auger/City of Buffalo, Pat Szarke/Szarke Law Office, Ione Olson, Theresa Hettwer/KleinBank, and Bj Brengman/Bj's Deli.

► **City Survey** - Mert gave a brief overview of the McComb Group survey and said there will be an informational meeting in September. He stated that the City is discussing with Coborn's the possibility of them staying downtown. Bid requests have been sent out for repaving Division Street and they hope to start the work by the end of August. Bergstrom's is still being pursued for a restaurant.

► **Store Hours** - Sally passed out a list of downtown retailers listing their hours and the committee discussed the findings. Ione would like to see more businesses staying open later on Thursday or Friday night.

► **Additional Items** - Ione mentioned she had met with the Journal Press and showed them ads from other cities that dedicate a full page of ads for the local businesses. She asked them to consider doing something similar.

Sally mentioned she will be extending the exhibit spaces further north on 1st Avenue towards the Cinema. She also asked their opinion about hosting a holiday craft show in conjunction with the Saturday Christmas event. All liked the idea but didn't know where to hold it. Mert suggested the new community center could be a possibility in 2009. Sally will set up a meeting with Ione and some others to discuss joint advertising and creating more events for that first Saturday in December.

Next Meeting - August 27, 2008

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Sally Custer.