

Downtown Economic Development Committee
November 19, 2008
Bj's Deli
Minutes

Present: Sally Custer/Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce, Ione Olson, Marilyn Groth/Book Break, Merton Auger/City of Buffalo, Pat Szarke/Szarke Law Office, Rick Flaata/Coborn's, Toni Koch/Setterberg's, Joe Carlson/KRWC, Chris Fredrick/City of Buffalo, Christine Husom/Buffalo Orthotics & Sole Comfort Shoes and Rainer Pensky

► **McComb Group** - Individuals shared their thoughts about Jim McComb's presentation the night before at City Hall. McComb conveyed that there are many types of businesses that have room to gain more marketing share. Rick commented he agreed with McComb's opinion about building owners needing to maintain their storefronts and be willing to work with a potential tenant to fill their vacancy. The smaller version of the report is an excellent tool to give potential new businesses.

► **City Update** - Merton said the kiosk will be installed in December on the corner where the old phone booth used to be. When asked about Coborn's, he commented he had not heard anything but was in communications with another grocery store if Coborn's decided to move. Rick said their quarterly meeting was coming up next week and he would see what he can find out. Toni asked about getting a billboard on Hwy. 55. Chris said he was checking into signage. Rainer suggested a permanent sign versus a billboard. Sally said the City of Waconia visited The Porch soliciting her to open up a second location in Waconia.

► **Downtown Christmas Event** - Sally reported that 31 downtown businesses are participating in the Christmas recipe card collection and many have some form of entertainment going on during December 4-6th.

► **Additional Items:** Merton said the City has arranged to have transportation for local residents from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. starting December 1st. The cost is \$1.25 per ride, or they can buy a punch card at City Hall for \$25 (greater value). Merton is going to see if they can extend the hours until 8 or 9 p.m. during December.

Pat checked with Untiedts about donating corn stalks for the lake walk in the fall. They said the City could have as many as they want. Rainer cautioned putting them up due to small critters eating the corn. The corn will have to be taken off before it is put up. Pat is going to get Sally the contact name and number.

Sally will email the downtown businesses inviting them to the next meeting on December 10th to hear their thoughts about the Downtown Deck the Halls event.

Next Meeting - December 10, 2008 at 8:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Sally Custer.