

Downtown Economic Development Committee
October 22, 2008 - 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, Rick Flaata/Coborn's, Toni Koch/Setterberg's, Joe Carlson & Maria/KRWC, Chris Fredrick/City of Buffalo, Christine Husom/Buffalo Orthotics & Sole Comfort Shoes, Sue Olmscheid/Lillians, and Andy Larson/Nelson Building

► **City Update** - Mert still has not heard back from corporate Coborn's about rebuilding downtown. When asked about the downtown construction, he said that the entire infrastructure had to be replaced. Approximately every 50-70 years you need to replace it and that it was time for the downtown area. The construction has also run into some delays. When they excavated the area in front of NAPA they found soil contamination. MPCA was called in and they had to clean the spill. Pat voiced a concern about snow removal in front of the vacant buildings. Mert said he would keep an eye on it. The City will soon be installing a kiosk downtown that will list the names and locations of the downtown businesses. The sign will be electronic enabling them to change names when needed. Toni would like to see a large sign on Hwy. 55 by Super America directing people downtown. Marilyn asked if the City was going to print new postcards. Sally said the Buffalo Tourism Board is currently looking into that.

► **Downtown Christmas Event** - Sally reported the Christmas Committee has been visiting downtown businesses encouraging them to participate in the three day event. Ione asked if the City was going to put up corn husks. Merton said a farmer used to donate them and no longer does. Pat will check with Untiedts to see if they would donate some. Pat asked if the trees were going to be lit on 1st St. NE (in front of the Cinema). Sally said the Utilities Department is aware of it, she just doesn't know if she needs to order more lights. Sally will check with Nelson's to see when we can put the train display in their storefront.

► **Morrie's Ford Car Show** - Rick went to the wrap up meeting and reported that the drivers and their wives loved the show. The store owners also had very positive comments. Dale commented that this show is much larger than the Annandale show and thinks next year will even be better. The 2009 date is September 12.

Next Meeting - November 19, 2008

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Sally Custer.