

Downtown Economic Development Committee

April 29, 2008 - 9:00 a.m.

Bj's Deli

Minutes

Present: BJ Brengman/Bj's Deli, Dan & Christine Husom/Buffalo Orthotics & Sole Comfort Shoes, Rick Flaata/Coborn's, Randy Haskins/KleinBank, Rainer Pensky, Diane Veches/Renaissance West, Sally Custer/Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce, Roger Lundeen/Edina, Jeannie Hintz/Team USA Mortgage, Marilyn Groth/Book Break, Toni Kock/Setterberg Jewelers, Pat Szarke/Szarke Law Office, Paul & Cara Otto/Otto Associates Engineers, Joe Malone/Wild Marsh and Dale & Ione Olson. Guest: Mark Braatz/Ford

► McComb Group LTD

Sally read Linda's (McComb Group) email - "We completed 36 business owner surveys, the respondents were very willing to contribute to the survey. We also completed customer surveys from 4 retailers, we're hoping to get more surveys back soon." Sally thanked Ione for going door to door to downtown businesses giving them the survey forms. Rick asked if their study would reflect the rent rates. We were not sure.

► Old Business

Buffalo Glass - Roger talked to Jim Lanie and the insurance program is still in place but people wanted to know about the financials and who is paying premiums. Roger will find out.

Hometown Management - Sally had not spoken to HM but asked Jeannie about the awning. She said the awning was there before her and she just imprinted over it. She imagines the next person will do the same. She did remove the signs from the side of the building.

► Morrie's Ford Car Show

Mark Braatz from Morrie's shared the highlights of the event. The date is now going to be September 6 (not 13th due to Annandale's show) from 10 - 3 pm. He is expecting approximately 100 cars and is going to close 1st Avenue by the theater down to Dr. Henk's building and on Division. They will have a website and a flyer soon. He hopes that it will be an annual event. Mark emphasized his desire to support the local businesses. Street & Thunder car magazine said they would be taking pictures at the event and writing an article. Dale said the WC Car Club has a registration trailer that Mark might be able to use and will check with Mo R. about using it. Rainer will call the president of the Antique Car Club and ask him to call Mark about displaying their cars. Randy/KleinBank said they would be willing to close the drive-up on that Saturday.

► Public Comments - Suzanne's Stained Glass

Sally had previously delivered Suzanne Henk's letter to the committee and asked if there were any comments. Rainer said he did visit with her daughter Hillary and apologized for not inviting her to the initial meeting. Anyone is welcome to come to the meeting and be on the committee.

► Joint Advertising - Friday vs. Thursday

Rick stated that his busiest times during the work week are from 3:30 pm to around 7 pm. He strongly encouraged everyone to be open later in the evenings in an effort to keep the traffic moving into the various stores, not just Coborn's. Rainer agreed and said we need to support Coborn's. Dale said Sterling's busiest nights are on Monday and Thursday. Toni is also open in the evenings and would like to see more businesses stay open later. Sally will create a list of businesses and their hours. Sally will mail a letter to businesses asking them to remain open longer, per Rainer's request. Ione thought it would be nice to have a brochure to hand potential renters. Sally said she did have information on our website including a list of properties.

► Next Meeting

We will start meeting on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 9 am at Bj's. The next meeting is on May 28, 2008.

Minutes submitted by Sally Custer.