

**Downtown Economic Development Committee**  
**April 1, 2008 - 10:00 a.m.**  
**Bj's Deli**  
**MINUTES**

**Present:** BJ Brengman/Bj's Deli, Dan & Christine Husom/Buffalo Orthotics & Sole Comfort Shoes, Merton Auger/City of Buffalo, Rick Flaata/Coborn's, Randy Haskins/KleinBank, Rainer Pensky, Roger Lundeen/Edina, Diane Veches/Renaissance West, Sally Custer/Buffalo Area Chamber of Commerce, Sue Olmscheid/Lillians, Jeannie Hintz/Team USA Mortgage, Toni Kock/Setterberg Jewelers, Andy Larson/Nelson Building, Pat Szarke/Szarke Law Office and Ione Olson.

► **McComb Group LTD** - Sally started the meeting with introductions then announced that the HRA had signed an agreement with the McComb Group. She read parts of the McComb letter describing what they will be doing. She handed out copies of the survey and when asked who would be willing to do the survey most of them raised their hand. The letter and survey will be posted on the Chamber website. Sally mailed 400 letters to businesses on March 28th inviting them to a meeting at City Hall on April 10th at 6:30 p.m. The McComb Group will be discussing the survey process. The survey will take place on April 16th through the April 22nd. It will take approximately two months after all the surveys are received to get a final report.

► **Public Comments** - Sally read a couple emails from residents. One man wrote he thought we should do everything we can to keep Coborn's downtown.

► **Joint Advertising/Friday vs. Thursday** - Sally had received numerous comments about keeping businesses open on Thursday versus Friday night, which was the suggestion at the last meeting. She read Teresa's email from The Porch. The consensus was to have businesses stay open both nights. Ione asked what the status was of the car show. Sally responded that Mark Braatz/Ford and Mo Ringinger/Edina met and set a date of September 13 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. They are looking for volunteers to help with the event.

► **Additional Items** - Rainer asked what had happened to the Buffalo Glass insurance program. No one new, but Roger said he would be seeing Jim Lanie that afternoon and would ask him. Pat said it would be nice to get more upper apartment living downtown and to add public boat launches at Buffalo Lake. Chris mentioned that her daughter Beth was selling ad space for the Experience Buffalo publication and asked if the group wanted to pitch in and buy an ad, there was no response. Jeannie said A Wreath of Franklin was having a small women's expo (artistic in nature) in her store on Saturday, April 19th from 1-5 p.m. Sally encouraged store owners to also do something that day. Ione asked if there was a way to get building owners to remove the signs off their building from former tenants. Jeannie said her sign was still up and that Hometown Management owned the building. Sally will email them and ask if they can remove it. Mert was asked what the status was regarding House of Lo and he commented that the HRA has been working on a possible purchase agreement with the owner for the past year. Mert also passed out information on the HRA Revolving Loan Fund Program.

► **Next Meeting & Mailings** - The next meeting will be at City Hall on April 10, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. Sally said she needed to streamline her DEDC work load, therefore, she will no longer be mailing a cover letter and minutes from the meeting to 77 locations. She will mail out a postcard the following day to the entire group letting them know it will be the last mailing and that they can access the information online at [www.buffalochamber.org/economicdevelopment](http://www.buffalochamber.org/economicdevelopment) or by email.

The committee agreed to changing the time to 9 a.m. instead of 10 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Sally Custer.