

**Rolla Area Chamber of Commerce
Board Meeting Summary – February 28, 2008**

Present: David Duncan, Pat Leaders, Steve Malott, Caroleen Ferrell, Scott Caron, Sue Brown, Barry White and Shad Becker

Staff: Carolyn Peplow and Stevie Kearse

Absent: Anita Carroll, Matt Sanders, Maria Sachs and Glen Sapaugh, Jr.

Ex Officio's Present: Jerry Paule, PCRMC, Elizabeth Bax, RREC, Dr. Jerry Giger, RPS and Mayor Bill Jenks.

Guest's Present: Mark Kean, Accountant and Susan Hinkle, Chairperson of Motel Tax Management Committee.

Meeting Called to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:32 a.m. by President, Pat Leaders.

Meeting Minutes: The January meeting summary was tabled for approval until the March meeting, due to board packets delayed in the mail.

Financial Review: Mark Kean, accountant reviewed the year to date financials. A motion was made by Duncan, second by Malott to approve the December financial reports as presented. Motion passed by vote.

Ex-Officio Reports:

Missouri S&T: Malott reported that the Best St. Pat's Ever, 100th Anniversary celebration will be held in March. Malott also reported to the board that there is currently legislation entered in the house placing restrictions on the development of tech parks, this restriction refers to the usage of recreational land.

PCRMC: Jerry Paule supplied the board with a handout and brief presentation outlining the 2008 PCRMC highlights and statistics on the facility, also included was the master facility plan outlining renovations in the south tower and ongoing construction and build out of the Medical Office Building.

City of Rolla: Mayor Bill Jenks, asked the board to encourage individuals they know, who would be good for the city government, to run for city council in their wards. Jenks also reported that utility rates in surrounding communities supplied by associations will be experiencing increases.

RREC: Elizabeth Bax reported to the board that the Briggs & Stratton building is closer to resolution. Bax also reported that the first building in the new university tech park is expected by the end of the year. The focus for 2008 is marketing Rolla. Bax updated the board on the Rolla West project; the next step in the process will be to compare/combine the Rolla West Master Plan with the Retail Marketing study.

Rolla Public Schools: Dr. Giger invited the board members to the open house and ribbon cutting at the RTC for the dental hygienist program, the open house will be February 29, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. Giger also reported to the board on the progress being made to air programming on a local Public Information Channel. The coordination of the programming involves PCRMC, RPS, Fidelity, City of Rolla and Missouri S&T. Giger also reported that the school system has used all the planned snow days for this year, more days will result in cutting days from Spring Break scheduled later in the school year. Spring sports start this week in the school system. Giger finished by reporting that renovations/improvements being looked at in the RPS are new science class/labs in the high school, Cafeteria and front entrance improvements at the middle school and the elimination on modular units at the middle school.

Old Business:

Call on Members: Board members selected a new member name to call on during the next month.

Marketing Firm: Written report included in packet. Kearse reported that Insight has completed an application for marketing funds from the state, supplied the Chamber with a media marketing plan for this year (dependent on budget) and is working on a new logo.

Building and Grounds; Lead Abatement: Kears reported that Triangle Environmental has completed the Lead Risk Assessment on the soil, results show no lead, final documents are on file at the chamber office. Kears is also soliciting bids from firms to complete the lead abatement. A motion was made by Ferrell, second by White to have the lead abatement task force (committee) speak with the city about responsibility for the cost of the abatement procedure and report back to the full board.

New Business:

Results Radio Advertising Contract: Kears reported to the board that the Chamber will be scheduled each month on the second and fourth Tuesday morning between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m.

Low Interest Downtown Loan Contract: The new loan agreement has been completed by the Chamber attorney and approved by the Executive Board. The loan process will have approximately \$250 in fees that will be offset by the applicant. The agreement allows for property owners only to apply for the loan.

Executive Director Report: Written report was included in board packets. Kears also discussed with the board problems and complaints by our caretaker about the patrons of the bar across the street. The board suggested to Kears to have the caretaker document incidents with police reports, Kears was also instructed to speak with the bar owner and suggest a lease or parking agreement with the owner, trying to resolve the current issues. Kears also reminded the board of the activities scheduled for next week including the Transportation Funding Summit, Rolla Day at the Capitol, Quarterly Breakfast and First Friday Coffee.

Membership Report: Written report was included in board packets.

Tourism Director Report: Written report was included in board packets.

Committees:

Motel Tax Management Committee: Written report was included in board packets. Susan Hinkle, Chairperson of the MTMC discussed with the board the new point system designed to award Tourism Partnership Grants (TPG). Hinkle also stressed as a hotel owner how critical room rental is to the hotels/motels in Rolla. Hinkle concluded with stressing concerns of the MTMC that events like Summerfest and OAT do not fit the criteria to receive the grants and this effects the budget and doesn't allow the committee to fulfill their mission. The board agreed to have the budget/finance committee review the new grant point system and recommend approval/changes.

Summerfest: A motion was made by Ferrell, second by Becker to allow the finance committee to review Summerfest commitments and meet with the Summerfest committee to determine the funding of this event for this year and in the future.

Small Business: White reported the new Small Business Committee has meet and are planning a small business brown bag luncheon on March 10, 2008, 11:30 a.m. at the Visitor Center, to access the needs/struggles/wants of local business in the community. The information collected from this meeting will be used in planning future seminars and business educational events. White also reported the committee is planning on hosting a Business Conference this fall, the committee is traveling to the Lake to observe their conference later in March.

Golf: Kears reported the Golf Committee has made a \$1,000 donation to the RPS Backpack program.

Planning and Vision: Kears reported the Planning and Vision committee has met and are planning a Past-Presidents Roundtable in April.

Comments for the good of the order:

Motion to adjourn, Meeting closed at 9:25 a.m.

Next Board Meeting: *Thursday, March 27 at 7:30 a.m., Rolla Visitor Center*