

BREMEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MINUTES FOR

July 8, 2009

Mission

The mission of the Bremen Chamber of Commerce is to unite local business in an effort to advocate and support economic vitality while cultivating community prosperity and quality of life in Bremen, A Good Town.

Person Presiding: Bill Davis (President)

Regular Members in Attendance: Trent Miles, Dana Pierce, Scott Graybill, Steve Weaver

Others in Attendance: Adam Kimminau

Treasurers Report

Bill Davis presented a verbal financial report as of July 8th, 2009. A written financial report will be presented by Phyllis VanDeKeere at a later date.

Chamber Coordinator Report

Membership Drive Progress: Trent Miles reviewed the current status of the 2009 Membership Drive. 75 membership applications have been received and paid for as of July 8th, 2009. Trent will be contacting Nappanee and Plymouth chamber members in an effort to give them the opportunity to join the Bremen Chamber at a half price rate.

Fireman's Festival Talent Show: There were 28 contestants for the July 2nd talent show at the Fireman's Festival. This was a good turnout due to the Thursday night timing. The winner was Janelle Morris of Bremen. She will sing the National Anthem at the Bremen Day at the Cove on July 19th.

The Karaoke Contest was advertised for two weeks in the Bremen Enquirer and the Plymouth Pilot. There were also stories in both of these newspapers promoting the contest.

Bremen Day at the Cove: Only 600 tickets remain as of July 8th. These tickets have been distributed to local chamber members and employers. The little league, pony league, and girls softball have taken over 1000 tickets. Trent will be in contact with Jeff Schofield to get a better understanding of how the entertainment spots will be filled between innings.

The Bremen Enquirer is scheduled to run an event reminder the week before the event.

The first pitch will be thrown by the winner of the little league player of the year award and the National Anthem will be sung by Janelle Morris, winner of the Bremen Fireman's Festival Karaoke Contest '09.

Leadership Awards Dinner: The awards dinner is scheduled for September 17th at the VFW. The dinner will be the same as last year at \$25 per ticket. Tables will be sponsored by local businesses for \$250 with 8 seats per sponsor.

Youth leaders have already been nominated and applications are in. The committee, which is still being organized, will select the youth leaders by the end of July. Lifetime Achievement nominees have been sent out as ballots to all chamber members. The deadline to receive them is July 17th.

Mike Tatich is in contact the Air force 1 gentleman about speaking at the dinner. A comedian will be lined up as a backup.

Community Development Conference II

Marketing Plan Update: Bill Davis had no further update at this time. He does have an outline for the plan.

INDOT Permitting: Permitting has been filed for and will cost around \$75 per year for three signs. At this point, we are only waiting for the setback restrictions from INDOT. At that point, permitting will be finished.

Bill also notified the board that OCRA has shut down all funding opportunities for the time being. We are awaiting further notice as to the availability of grant money.

Other Business

Town-wide Garage Sale: Town wide Garage Sale is July 16, 17, and 18. The chamber is picking up the tab for the garage sale fee and advertising in the Bremen Enquirer.

Social Security Seminar: A gentleman from the Social Security Office will be holding a seminar on August 18th. Trent and Bill will begin working on the advertising for that event in the near future.

Local Business Incubator: Dave Miller who has run the IU incubator for numerous years is conducting a feasibility study for the incubator project.

Money Smart Week: October 10-17, local business owners and business people will be holding seminars on various financial issues. There will be free workshops that week based on financial literacy. The program is being managed by the United Way.

Homespun Holidays: November 12-14 will be the annual Homespun Holidays in Bremen. A committee will be put together by Trent Miles soon to begin organizing the event for this season.

Christmas Celebration: No big moves were made at this time. This was just a reminder that the Christmas Celebration is set for November 25, 2009.

Tribune Business Weekly: The board advised against participating in the Tribune Business Weekly Bremen Feature this year. It was decided that it was not in our best interest to send a letter of support for the Tribune to our chamber members.

Koontz Tractor Show: This was just an update by Steve Weaver that the Koontz Tractor Show will take place on September 11 and 12.

Next Meeting: August 12th, 2009 at 7:30 AM at the Italian Coffee Bar.