

MINUTES
WINKLER & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, February 17, 2009, 12:10 p.m.
Smitty's Family Restaurant

PRESENT: Isabel Bright, Betty Hiebert, Herb Franz, Ken Thomas, James Friesen, Eugen Klassen, David Dunseath, Dianne Friesen

A. MINUTES OF January 20, 2008 Meeting (as circulated)

M/S...Betty Hiebert/David Dunseath...that the minutes be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

B. NEW BUSINESS:

i) Annual Banquet & Business Meeting update

- Business meeting will be on Tuesday, February 24 at noon at the Emmanuel Mennonite Church. Mayor Harder will be giving his State of the City address.
- Banquet is Thursday, April 16 at the Heartland Inn. Jeff Zabudsky is guest speaker.

ii) BREI update

- Results of second round of surveys are consistent with the first round. Some positive results.
- Over 80 businesses were surveyed.
- 53% of those surveyed have been in the community for 10 or more years. 21% plan to expand.
- 86% of businesses say customer service is extremely weak.
- Inadequate labor supply is consistent in both surveys.

iii) New President – Betty Hiebert

- Betty Hiebert takes over her position as president at the AGM on February 24.
- Ken expressed what an honor and privilege it has been to be in the president's role.

C. CHAMBER REPORTS:

i) Continuing Education – Isabel Bright

- Winkler campus has been in the community for 23 years.
- Changes in the way a program can be offered has become a challenge.
- They are researching unique ways to offer apprenticeship and trades training.

- Currently the LPN and RN upgrade course is not being offered at the Winkler campus.
- They feel they would very much like to have a new building for the Winkler campus.
- There are 1200 – 1400 people taking part time courses.

D. OTHER:

i) April Reports

- City of Winkler – Lloyd Thiessen
- Economic Development – George Klassen

E. NEXT MEETING: April 21, 2009

F. ADJOURNMENT: 1:00 pm