

MINUTES
WINKLER & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, January 20, 2009, 12:10 p.m.
Smitty's Family Restaurant

PRESENT: Mike Chute, Mark Bennett, Terrienne Seward, Pam Fedack, Brenda Storey, Herb Franz, Eugen Klassen, Lloyd Thiessen, Greg Archibald, Dianne Friesen

A. MINUTES OF November 18, 2008 Meeting (as circulated)

M/S...Greg Archibald/Herb Franz...that the minutes be accepted as circulated.

Carried

B. NEW BUSINESS:

i) Annual General Meeting – February 24, 2009

- AGM is set for Tuesday, February 24 at noon at Heartland Inn

ii) Survey Findings from Southland Mall Tenants

- There were 10 surveys done for the BREI program at the Southland Mall.
- Each business surveyed felt that the mall needs to find owners & management locally who are interested in this area.
- There should also be someone to take over the retail merchants association.
- The Harvest Festival should be promoted in the mall.
- Shoppers Drug Mart would like to hold a Healthy Living seminar.
- A play area for the mall would be nice.

iii) Upcoming Workshops

- There is a Hiring Apprenticeship Info session planned for January 28, 2009
- Women in Business Breakfast scheduled for February 3, 2009 from 7:30 am to 8:30 am in the Centennial Library
- Customer Service Workshop on February 4 at Smitty's from 7:30 am to 8:30 am.

C. CHAMBER REPORTS:

i) Immigration Report – Eugen Klassen

- The rate of immigration is currently at 20,000 by 2016.
- 10% of immigrants settle in the Pembina Valley region.
- With immigration have come many challenges to infrastructure, housing & schools.

- Immigration numbers went from 21 families in 1998 to 223 in 2008.
- There are satellite offices in Altona and Morden.
- Settlement Services move to their new location in July, 2008.
- We continue in partnership with MCC Family Services
- We continue to provide ongoing services to all immigrants.

D. OTHER:

i) February Reports

- Continuing Education – Isabel Bright

E. NEXT MEETING: February 17, 2009

F. ADJOURNMENT: 12:56 pm