

**MINUTES**  
**WINKLER & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, September 16, 2008, 12:10 p.m.**  
**Smitty's Family Restaurant**

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**PRESENT:** Myrna Hildebrand, Brenda Storey, James Friesen, Greg Archibald, Eugen Klassen, Betty Hiebert, Pam Fedack, Herb Franz, Mark Bennett, Marcus Hiebert, Terriane Seward, Lloyd Thiessen, David Dunseath, Dianne Friesen

**A. MINUTES OF June 17, 2008 Meeting (as circulated)**

**M/S...Betty Hiebert/Mark Bennett...that the minutes be accepted as circulated.**

**Carried**

**B. NEW BUSINESS:**

**i) BREI Update**

- Phase III and IV are moving forward.
- There were 9 recommendations that came as a result of Phase I & II.
- Skilled labor training is one very important recommendation that came as a result of the surveys. Brenda, Greg & Eugen are moving forward on this.
- There is a need for housing of freight that the survey results also showed.

**ii) Small Business Week Luncheon – Oct. 21/08**

- Small Business Week Luncheon will be on October 21, 2008 at the Heartland Inn.
- Heartland Credit Union will be sponsor of the luncheon.
- Speakers have not yet been confirmed.

**iii) All Candidates Forum**

- All Candidates Forum for the upcoming federal election will be on September 30 in the Morden Friendship Centre starting at 7:00 pm. We are hosting this together with the Morden Chamber of Commerce.

**C. CHAMBER REPORTS:**

**i) Health Report – James Friesen**

- Boundary Trails Health Centre has a staff of 500 with 94 acute beds.
- Prevention in health is in the forefront.
- Salem has 145 residents.

- New to Salem is a Young Disabled Unit, which is for residents 56 years old and under.
- Mental Health has a 30-bed acute care centre.
- Eden Mental Health Centre is an organization that has been around for 41 years.
- Their total budget is \$8.5 Million.
- Would like to see the organization working together with the general practitioners on providing mental health care to their patients.
- Roy Kirby is a source for Mental Health issues in the workplace.
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**ii) Retail Merchants Association – Mark Bennett**

- Mark shared that as a group of business leaders we need to lead by example and be stewards of the community by shopping locally whenever possible.
- We need to develop a strategy on how we can implement keeping business in Winkler.
- Customer Service seems to be improving. But we do need to continue educating staff.
- How can we promote outside shoppers to come to Winkler to shop?
- To form a Retail Merchants Association we need to understand where the need is.
- Mark said we should challenge our family and friends as to where they do their shopping and why.

**D. OTHER:**

**i) November Reports**

- Education – Vern Reimer
- Continuing Education – Isabel Bright

**E. NEXT MEETING: November 18, 2008**

**F. ADJOURNMENT: 12:56 pm**