

VILLAGE OF LAKE IN THE HILLS  
BUSINESS RELATIONS COMMITTEE

January 16, 2007

The Business Relations Committee met January 16, 2007 at the Lake in the Hills Village Hall, 600 Harvest Gate, Lake in the Hills, IL at 6:05 p.m. Those present were Committee Members Joe DeMay, Mary Siewenie, John Andrea, Colin Taheny and Russ Ruzanski. Also present were Assistant Village Administrator Shannon Andrews, Recording Secretary Nancy Sujet and Ex Officio Member Trustee Wakeman. Committee Member Chris Hadfield was absent from this evening's meeting. Chairperson Jeffrey Altman arrived at 6:10 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES 12-19-06**

Committee Member Siewenie motioned to approve the December 19, 2006 meeting minutes. Committee Member Ruzanski seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a sign of ayes, no nays.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Business Mentoring**

**Discuss results of previous month's calls/Assignment of calls for January**

Committee Member Siewenie stated that she made three calls. She left messages with two of them and talked to one person. That person thanked her for the information regarding the Business Relations Committee. She let them all know about upcoming events.

There are no new businesses for January.

**Business Enhancement Program Update – Pandemic Planning**

Committee Member DeMay stated that he has spoken with James Wales regarding speaking at a meeting with all local business and he has agreed to talk at the meeting. Committee Member DeMay stated that it is now up to the Committee if they want to plan a meeting. Ms. Andrews stated that she would need at least a six weeks notice in order to get invitations out. Committee Member DeMay stated that he will check with James Wales to see how much notice he needs about the meeting.

Chairperson Altman arrived and Committee Member DeMay brought him up to date about the meeting.

**Algonquin Road Constructions Updates**

Chairperson Altman stated that he has left a couple of voice mail messages with Jeff Young at McHenry County and will continue to follow up with them.

**New Business**

**Nomination for the Gordon Larsen Business Achievement Award**

Committee Member DeMay asked if there were any new nominations. Ms. Andrews stated that there was not. Chairperson Altman stated that the Committee decided to reduce the number of times the award is issued to twice a year and more if needed, likewise, the Committee does not have to issue one either. He suggested that it could also be tabled for another time. Committee Member Siewenie asked how to proceed if they do want to nominate someone. Chairperson Altman stated that you then make a motion to nominate.

Committee Member Siewenie motioned to nominate the Property Owners Association. She went on to state that they were the first form of Government within the Village. They took care of the lakes, etc. They still work hard to be a part of the Village by hosting fundraisers for various organizations. Committee Member Ruzanski asked if they were a business. Committee Member Siewenie stated that

they are non-for-profit. She then asked Ms. Andrews if they had a business license. Ms. Andrews stated that they do.

The voting is as follows:

Committee Member Siewenie – Property Owners Association  
Committee Member Andrea – Abstained  
Chairperson Altman – Abstained  
Committee Member DeMay – Property Owners Association  
Committee Member Ruzanski – Property Owners Association  
Committee Member Taheny - Abstained

Motion was approved by a sign of 3 ayes, no nays and 3 Abstains

Chairperson Altman stated that the Gordon Larsen Award is awarded to the Property Owners Association. Ms. Andrews stated that it will be presented to the Property Owners Association at the 1<sup>st</sup> Village Board meeting in February at 7:30pm.

### **2007 Strategic Planning**

Committee Member DeMay asked if anyone had any comments. Committee Member Ruzanski suggested seeing if the Lake in the Hills Theater would give a discount to businesses within the Village. He also suggested a picnic in the summer for the businesses and maybe this would increase attendance. Committee Member DeMay stated that when the Business Relations Committee hosts an event there should be a purpose, not just a mixer. Committee Member Ruzanski stated that there could still be a topic and then breakup into a picnic. He felt the events have been good, but the difficulty has been in attendance. Committee Member Taheny suggested getting involved with the Chamber by finding out what programs they are doing and maybe partnering with them.

Committee Member DeMay asked Ms. Andrews if she was on the board for the Chamber. Ms. Andrews stated that she is. She stated that the Chamber is looking into creating a TABLE committee that could potentially be a bridge between the Chamber and the Village. Although the roll of the committee is still being determined, it would be a good link between the Business Relations Committee and the Chamber. Members of the TABLE committee could attend Business Relations Committee meetings.

Committee Member Siewenie asked if the Village is giving the new businesses to the Chamber. Ms. Andrews stated that she would have to check.

Committee Member Siewenie stated that the Chamber has Leadership School program where charitable organizations were invited to speak to the attendees. She suggested that maybe there could be a day where each charity or service group could come and talk to the businesses and they could find out about the different programs. Ms. Andrews expressed concern with copying a portion of the Leadership School program, as it could draw attendance away from the Chamber's program.

Committee Member Siewenie stated that the Business Relations Committee needs to work closer with the Chamber. Committee Member Taheny stated that the Naperville Chamber puts a lot into their new businesses and creates a network within itself. Committee Member DeMay asked if it is a Chamber of Commerce. Committee Member Taheny stated that they are tied into the businesses. He then offered that Schaumburg does a breakfast with members and non-members tying into the businesses. Committee Member Taheny stated that we are struggling with the people not the ideas. Committee Member DeMay stated that the Village has a Chamber, do we want to do something that is a Chamber event. Committee Member Taheny stated that the Business Relations Committee needs to get ideas out to everyone. Committee Member DeMay suggested going to the Chamber for help.

Committee Member Siewenie suggested having a Strategic Planning session away from the normal meeting, maybe having it on a Saturday afternoon.

Committee Member DeMay asked if this Committee is trying to get businesses into the Village. Committee Member Siewenie asked what is the mission of the Business Relations Committee? Chairperson Altman stated that this is a function for an EDC, if a business is looking to come into the Village they will approach us, we are not looking for businesses to bring them here.

Committee Member Taheny stated that the Committee needs to work within the Village using the business renewal information. Committee Member Siewenie asked how the Committee could do this. Committee Member Taheny stated that we can send the businesses information letting them know that the Business Relations Committee is here if they need anything. Committee Member Siewenie suggested delivering the information to them. Committee Member Taheny stated that there could be an insert with the renewal letter letting them know about the Business Relations Committee. Committee Member Andrea asked when the business licenses expire. Ms. Andrews stated that they expire annually on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Committee Member Andrea stated that there is time to plan for it then. Committee Member Taheny stated that the Committee could also get their e-mail addresses and then forward information to them via e-mail.

Committee Member Andrea suggested that the Committee could focus on a survey with 10 – 15 questions regarding what the Business Relations Committee can do for them. Committee Member DeMay stated that we can find out what issues they are facing. Committee Member Ruzanski stated that we need to get the businesses to talk to us.

Committee Member DeMay stated that he did not see in the minutes about having a Strategic Planning Session at this meeting. Chairperson Altman stated that we can have a motion to come up with a date or the next meeting we can clear the agenda and have the Strategic Planning Session then. Committee Member Siewenie asked to get direction from the Village Board before the next meeting. Committee Member DeMay stated that next month will be the Strategic Planning Session and any tools Ms. Andrews can give them before that meeting would be greatly appreciated. Ms. Andrews stated that she will send them an e-mail with some basic planning strategies.

## **STAFF REPORT**

### **Gordon Larsen Award**

Ms. Andrews informed the Committee that a press release was issued in mid-December, there have been no new nomination forms for the award received to date.

### **Famous Firehouse Coffee**

Ms. Andrews informed the Committee that the Village learned this week that Famous Firehouse Coffee has closed its doors. It had been known for some time that the business was struggling with competitors, Starbucks and Caribou situated across Randall.

## **TRUSTEE LIASON REPORT**

Trustee Wakeman stated that she could go back to the Village Board and confront them about the issues the Committee Members are having. She suggested that the Committee needs to come up with solutions to help the businesses, but they cannot solve all their problems. Committee Member DeMay was concerned that there could be complaints and the Committee would not know about them. Trustee Wakeman assured him that if the Village received any complaints, she would then inform the Committee. She then stated that there is a need to help the restaurants or other merchants with their daytime business. Algonquin Plaza continues to move along and she hoped that it would help with attracting businesses into the Village.

Trustee Wakeman went on to inform the Committee that the Village had passed the 2007 Budget.

Trustee Wakeman then informed the Committee that she is on the Summer Sunset Fest Committee and will be working on organizing a Kid's Tent. In their committee meetings, the subject of the Business Expo kept coming up and the committee has been wondering if the Business Relations Committee is still interested in it. Trustee Wakeman invited the Business Relations Committee to come to a meeting. She then informed the Committee that the Kids Tent could be a good marketing tool for local businesses, as they could sponsor an event and have their banner displayed while they are volunteering. A Mary Kay consultant could volunteer to do kids make-up, etc. She asked the Committee for their thoughts.

Committee Member DeMay stated that the Rib Fest has thought about going that direction with things for the kids to do also. Committee Member Siewenie asked if anyone has talked to the businesses that participated last year in the Business Expo. Committee Member Andrea stated that the car wash liked it and was excited about doing it again. Further discussion took place regarding the Business Expo and the Summer Sunset Fest Kid's Tent.

### **DISCUSSION**

None

### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Committee Member Siewenie to adjourn the meeting. Committee Member Andrea seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a sign of aye, no nays. The meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Nancy Sujet  
Recording Secretary