

VILLAGE OF LAKE IN THE HILLS
BUSINESS RELATIONS COMMITTEE

June 19, 2007

The Business Relations Committee met June 19, 2007 at the Lake in the Hills Village Hall, 600 Harvest Gate, Lake in the Hills, IL at 6:05 pm. Those present were Chairperson Russ Ruzanski, Committee Members Chris Hadfield, Mary Siewenie, John Andrea, Joe DeMay and Tom French. Also present were Assistant Village Administrator Ms. Shannon Andrews, Recording Secretary Nancy Sujet and Ex Officio Trustee Bogdanowski and Trustee Wakeman. Committee Member Colin Taheny arrived at 6:09pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 15, 2007

Committee Member Hadfield motioned to approve the May 15, 2007 meeting minutes. Committee Member DeMay seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a sign of ayes, no nays. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Business Mentoring

Discuss results of previous month's calls/assignment of calls for June

Committee Member Siewenie stated that she made the calls for April and was able to talk to one person and the other two she left a message.

Committee Member Hadfield informed the Committee that he introduced himself and the committee via e-mail. He will follow up with a phone call and possibly a visit.

Chairperson Ruzanski stated that he tried to stop in and the owner was not there. He will try again next month.

Committee Member Andrea volunteered to take the two businesses for the month of June.

Discuss the Development of the Business Mentoring Program

Chairperson Ruzanski asked the Committee where they wanted to go with the program. Do we want to change anything? Committee Member Siewenie suggested that the businesses be split. Each Committee Member to take a segment of the village. Chairperson Ruzanski asked if she meant that each member would have a set assigned area of the village. Committee Member Siewenie stated yes. Home based businesses would be hard but the rest would be fine. Committee Member Taheny stated that it was a great idea. Committee Member DeMay asked if Ms. Andrews could map it out for them. Ms. Andrews informed the Committee that there would be 7 different sections and that she would bring with next month.

Chairperson Ruzanski asked if there were any other ideas. Committee Member French asked if this was just for new businesses. Committee Member Siewenie suggested handing the businesses information about Summer Sunset Fest and the Business Expo. Chairperson Ruzanski stated that it was a good idea to split the village up into 7 sections.

NEW BUSINESS

Conceptualize Summer Business Enhancement/Event

Chairperson Ruzanski asked the Committee for any suggestions for an event. Chairperson Ruzanski suggested an outdoor event, looking for ideas and some volunteers to spend time over the next month on the event. Committee Member DeMay asked if there would be any type of feed back from the survey. Ms. Andrews stated that the businesses have until June 30th to return the survey. So far there are nine surveys coming back to the Village. The Survey will give a better idea of date, time, etc. Committee Member DeMay suggested waiting to plan anything until after the surveys are returned. Ms. Andrews suggested starting with preliminary information so that the subcommittee can get started.

Chairperson Ruzanski stated that volunteers are needed. Committee Members French and Taheny volunteered to be on the subcommittee.

Discussion for attracting Larsen Award Nominees

Chairperson Ruzanski asked if there were any suggestions. Committee Member Siewenie asked if a Business Relations Committee Member could nominate someone for the award. Chairperson Ruzanski stated that anyone can, you just need to fill out the form. Committee Member Andrea stated that the form is on the web-site. Committee Member French asked if there was a deadline for the nominations. Committee Member Andrea stated that there is not. Committee Member French suggested taking advantage of the Air Show. Chairperson Ruzanski stated that normally the BRC does not have a representative at the Air Show and that a flyer would be needed. Ms. Andrews stated that she could provide the same information that was out at the Summer Sunset Fest and have applications.

Committee Member French asked if the Committee wants only citizens to nominate businesses. Committee Member Siewenie thought it was a good idea to have the information at the Air Show.

Committee Member French motioned to have the Gordon Larsen Business Achievement Award information at the Air Expo. Committee Member Andrea seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a sign of ayes, no nays. Motion Carried.

Ms. Andrews asked the Committee if they wanted to have a booth at the Air Expo or just handing the information to the people at the gates. Volunteers would be needed and they Air Expo Committee would need to know as soon as possible.

After further discussion regarding the Air Expo and the Gordon Larsen Business Achievement Award it was determined that there would be a table at the Air Expo with the forms available and a box for nominations to be turned in.

STAFF REPORT

Committee Changes

Ms. Andrews informed the Committee that with Jeff Altman's recent resignation, the open Chair position will be filled by Russ Ruzanski and that the remaining position

opening will be Tom French, who is the owner of Winestyles in Lake in the Hills. Congratulations to each on their new assignments.

Business Survey

Ms. Andrews stated that the changes suggested by the Committee were incorporated into a final draft of the business survey, which was mailed out to all businesses on June 12, 2007. The deadline was adjusted from July 31st to June 30th. This will allow businesses the two weeks suggested by the Committee to return their completed surveys. The results will be compiled and sent out to the Committee in advance of the July meeting. This should allow Committee members the time necessary to review the results prior to any discussion.

Business Insider

Ms. Andrews informed the committee that the first published issue of the Business Insider was distributed to the businesses in early June. Ms. Andrews asked if a Committee member was interested in submitting an article, if so, that the next deadline would be August 7th. This would be an excellent time to share the highlights of the survey with the business community.

Lake in the Hills Air Expo

Ms. Andrews stated that the annual Lake in the Hills Air Expo will be held on June 23, 2007. General admission wristbands have been made available to the Commission members. If you have indicated to Nancy that you will be attending, you should have a folder at your seat with your wristbands and parking passes. If you are interested in volunteering, we are looking for individuals to staff the admissions from 11:00am – 1:00pm

Rockin' Rotary Ribfest

Ms. Andrews informed the Committee that the Lake in the Hills Rotary will be holding the 2nd annual Rockin' Rotary Ribfest, July 6th – 8th at Sunset Park. The Rotary is always looking for volunteers for the event. If you are interested in donating some of your time, feel free to let me know your availability, which I will pass along to the event organizers. Even if you don't attend as a volunteer, it is certainly an incredibly good time and I would encourage all of you to stop by.

Algonquin/Lake in the Hills Chamber

TABLE Committee

Ms. Andrews informed the Committee that the TABLE Committee met on May 24th. At this meeting, they discussed some of their previous accomplishments such as the Public Relations Forum, Check Enforcement Seminar and work on the Gross Receipts Tax issue. They have decided to work on a mission statement that defines the Committee's purpose. They have determined that their long-term goals are to consistently survey the chamber membership for issues that affect the businesses. Then, use their resources to petition policy makers to address these concerns. They encourage local decision makers to participate in their Committee, which will meet again on June 28th at 9:00am.

TRUSTEE LIAISON REPORT

Trustee Wakeman stated that she appreciated working with old friends, meeting new friends and she welcomed Committee Member Tom French to the Committee.

Trustee Bogdanowski informed the Committee that he will try to give the Committee updated information from the board. He stated that at the last board meeting Amusement Licenses were approved.

DISCUSSION

Committee Member Hadfield stated that he will submit articles for the Business Insider by August 7, 2007.

Committee Member Siewenie commented that two weeks ago the village held a Realtor Tour. She asked if the Business Relations Committee could duplicate it. It was very interesting to see where potential growth is. She feels that the tour would benefit all the members of the Business Relations Committee. Chairperson Ruzanski asked Ms. Andrews if she could find out availability. Committee Member Siewenie stated that the Committee needs to decide on a day and time. Committee Member Andrea asked how long the tour would take. Committee Member Siewenie stated that it lasted about an hour.

Committee Member Hadfield asked if the Committee would need to have a public announcement about the tour. Committee Member Siewenie asked if it needed to go to the Village Board for approval. Ms. Andrews stated that the Committee would not need to go to the Village Board for approval. The tour would be scheduled through Parks and Recreation due to the bus. Committee Member Siewenie stated that the Committee would be taking the tour. Ms. Andrews stated that she thought the Committee would want to host a tour. Committee Member Siewenie asked if the Committee could do this in place of their regular meeting. Ms. Andrews stated that the meeting would be posted. The Committee needs to book the bus and have someone do the tour.

Committee Member Siewenie suggested having the tour in September. Committee Member DeMay stated that it should be sooner. Chairperson Ruzanski suggested August or September. Committee Member Hadfield asked if the tour could be in place of their meeting. Chairperson Ruzanski stated that he thought the Committee should meet, go over agenda items and then take the tour. Committee Member Siewenie asked if Dan Olson would be available to do the tour. Ms. Andrews stated that she would be able to conduct the tour. Chairperson Ruzanski suggested having the tour in August. Committee Member Siewenie asked if they should wait until September so that it is after the Summer Sunset Fest.

After further discussion it was decided that the bus tour should be held on August 14, 2007 in place of the regular Business Relations Committee meeting.

Committee Member DeMay stated that a business owner came to him about the construction on Algonquin Road. The business owner wanted to know about putting up temporary signage during the construction period. Committee Member DeMay stated that he told the business owner that the county has put temporary signs up already. Committee Member Siewenie asked if he wanted to put up his own business sign. Committee Member DeMay stated that he told him it is probably unrealistic to have a temporary sign of his own up. Ms. Andrews informed the committee that the businesses worked with the Chamber and the County last time and since then, the County has

corrected the problem by putting signs up at each entrance, which lets motorist know where they can enter to get to the businesses.

Chairperson Ruzanski stated that the village has temporary signs for certain situations and in this case it is more of a county issue then a village issue.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Ms. Sandy Oslance from the Algonquin/Lake in the Hills Chamber gave a brief description of her background and the Chambers. She then informed everyone about the subcommittee that was formed by the Chamber called the TABLE Committee. She stated that they are looking at issues for all levels of government, from local up to and including Federal. The TABLE Committee is looking into having seminars that would balance both county and village issues. She told the committee to let her know if the Chamber could ever assist them with anything. She also informed the Committee that the Chamber is having a State of the Village which is being hosted by Ms. Andrews.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Committee Member Taheny to adjourn the meeting. Committee Member Hadfield seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a sign of aye, no nays. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Submitted by:
Nancy Sujet