

Cimarron Chamber of Commerce
Board Meeting
Thursday, November 06, 2014
Meeting Minutes

Call to order: 7:30am

In attendance: Steve Nelson, Vallerie Vickers, Sharon Smith, Jan Wessel, Candee Rinde, and guest, Chief of Police, Paul May. Secretary Marianne Graham was unable to attend, and J.R. Herrera did not show. Candee Rinde took the minutes.

Sharon made a motion to approve both the Oct 2 minutes and the Oct 24 minutes. Steve second. Motion approved.

Vallerie opened the meeting with discussion on our priorities set during our Oct 24 Board Retreat. She mentioned that one important way to make ourselves a political force was to attend the Village Council meetings and to read the Village Ordinances, which are posted online.

Steve suggested that we divide up the membership list among the Board and ask our members what their needs and concerns are. Then take those concerns to the Council meetings. All were in agreement, and it was agreed that we need to draft some guiding questions, to lead our conversations. Candee was asked to divide the membership up and bring it to the Board Members. Vallerie suggested we bring this together by January 15, 2015; Sharon suggested we start today. All agreed.

It was agreed that the guiding questions to bring to our members are, "What do you (the membership) want/expect from us (the Board)?" and "What do you (the membership) want us (the Board) to communicate to the Village Council on your behalf?" Other questions that were posed to be asked: "Are you (the membership) happy with the job the Board is doing?" and "What are you, as a business, struggling with?" These questions are not to be posed as a standard survey, but as conversations we (the Board) will have with each of our members. Steve offered to cast our vision on paper.

Vallerie reminded everyone of the importance of attending the Village Council meetings and strongly encouraged everyone to make it a priority. Steve asked Candee to send out reminders. Candee agreed.

Vallerie opened up discussions with Chief May regarding the break-ins. Chief May stated that the latest break-ins have the same style as last year's. They generally come through windows, and in one instance, a partially locked door, at night while no one is around. Steve asked if they were doing any damage, to which Chief May replied no, only to break in—not glass but window latches and panes. Steve also asked if the thieves seemed to know where to go for the money/valuables. Chief May replied that they didn't need to know, as they didn't take anything covert or hidden. He also explained that fingerprinting is not very effective in Cimarron, since we have such a low humidity here, the oils left by fingerprints dry up too quickly, and additionally, things are so dusty that you cannot get good prints.

Vallerie asked Chief May, "What are your major concerns?" His response was that he wants to make it (the break-ins) stop. He says the police are 99% sure they know who's doing it, but they need more concrete evidence. He stated that his concern is that people are seeing suspicious activity but not reporting it. He also stated that the suspects are over 18 years of age but less than 25.

Steve posed a suggestion to Chief May about citizens on patrol. The chief stated that might work. It's very difficult for the police to sneak up on people in a car at night, because it is extremely quiet at night in Cimarron. You can hear someone walking several blocks away. The chief also stated that the police have been patrolling at night, and that Casey has found a good, dark place to sit and watch. Steve said that it would be good to let the community know that the police are indeed out at night, since it is generally believed that the police are home in bed at night. Sharon also agreed that we need to dispel rumors, and asked about how can we get good information to the public. She also posed the question: What can we do to help business owners protect their business? Steve suggested that our Board President (Vallerie) should send a letter to Mayor LeDoux, strongly encouraging her to send a letter to the community to let the public know what the police and the Village governing body are doing in regards to these break-ins. It was agreed that this letter (from the mayor) should also be put in the water bill, and possibly also passed out to the school children to take home. Vallerie agreed to send a letter to the mayor. Vallerie called for a vote on this matter. Sharon second. The motion carried.

Chief May's closing statements were that security in Cimarron is atrocious. He suggested that everyone should have (and use) deadbolts on their doors, make sure their windows are locked properly and secured with window slide stops, he suggested that there are coatings you can put on windows that will make them almost bullet proof, and stated that there are only 3 businesses in Cimarron with alarms. He also said that security cameras were a good idea. Vallerie posed the question of how to get a couple cameras put in the Village (possibly alleys). Steve also suggested that game cameras would be a good idea, and that Philmont uses them. Chief May stated that you could get them at Radio Shack for under \$400. This closed the discussion of the break-ins.

Vallerie moved the discussions to the next item in the agenda, issues of concern to businesses in Cimarron. She posed the question: "How do we get new businesses to come to Cimarron with such a poor water infrastructure and bad roads?" Sharon agreed that this is a priority. Steve asked "How do we get progress?" It was mentioned that "There's no money" is always stated as the problem. Steve stated that in order to be a political force and help move things forward, we need to bring these issues to the Village Council and ask "What do you need us to do to help you?"

Next point of discussion, the bylaws: Steve mentioned that he really needed a team to work on this, and that he had not had time to pour through it himself, but did have a recommendation regarding the membership levels. He recommended that we cut the levels down to two: Gold level and regular level. Anyone can be a Regular level member. Gold members get a higher priority on the website. All agreed. Action: Need to send a letter out to the membership and get a vote.

Next point of discussion, the debt to the Village: It was agreed that we need to bring the minutes from 2010--where then Board President Deborah Sanders stated that we need to consider how to repay our debt of \$7500 to the Village—to our meeting with Mindy on Nov 19.

Next point of discussion, the CS Ranch grant request: Vallerie stated that the letter of request has been drafted and signed, and that Candee will mail it out in December. Sharon asked to see a copy. Candee passed the letter around and also offered to email it to the entire Board.

Vallerie opened the floor to new business. No one had any to bring.

Next item of discussion, the Nominating Committee: Vallerie shared that the members of the Nominating Committee are: Jan Wessel (board member), Susan Norris (Chamber member), & Jon Erich

Holderby (Chamber member). She announced that she (Vallerie Vickers), Marianne Graham, Ryan Hammitt, and Jeremy Ricklef would be on the ballot. She told Candee that she would bring confirmation of the last two (Ryan & Jeremy) before the end of the day. Sharon suggested that it might be good to give a little bio on each candidate (but not on the ballot itself), or at least list what store they represent, after their name on the ballot. Candee agreed that the ballots would be sent out this afternoon (or as soon as Vallerie gives her confirmation that Ryan and Jeremy will run).

Next item of discussion, scheduling meetings: We agreed that we will suspend the socials for now and revisit them in January, after the Board and officers have been determined. Vallerie strongly encouraged all Board Members to attend the Village Council meeting on November 19, and reminded everyone that we also meet with Mindy the morning of the 19th, and asked that everyone please attend. Discussions then arose regarding the next meeting with the Chief of Police. Sharon said that we need to invite those who've been victimized. It was agreed that this meeting needs to be sponsored by the Chamber (we put out flyers, emails, etc), to demonstrate that we are a political force, but that it needs to be held at Village Hall. All agreed that we need to start with Vallerie's letter to the mayor, and that this needs to be urgent—and take place before the holidays. Being done with our discussions regarding break-ins, it was at this point that Chief May dismissed himself from the meeting. We thank him for attending.

It was noted that we presented Val Kutz with a plaque to honor her service to the Chamber and the community for so many years. She is already missed.

Steve gave the finance report for October. Everything is in balance. We do have money for our events (Cimarron Days, etc). Our total income was \$6,021, our total expenses were \$1,979, giving us a profit of \$4,042. Our biggest income was the Lodger's Tax, which was an accumulation of the 3 months last summer when we didn't receive any. He stated that we need to have Michlyn not put Explore the Arts on our Profit and Loss sheet, just on our savings account. YTD total income from July-Oct is \$12,110, total expenses were \$8,289, and our net income was \$3,820. About half our total income comes from Lodger's Tax and the other half from the gun raffle we did this summer and the membership dues. Steve stated that there is the curious issue of \$1,100 in negative supplies, and that he will have to investigate what that is. He also said that he will be calling Michlyn for a face-to-face, just to get acquainted. His final statement was that we do have money in the bank. He called for a motion to approve the financial report. Sharon second. Motion carried.

Vallerie moved the discussion to Team Reports. Regarding Cimarron Days, Sharon stated that we as a Chamber Board need to be more focused on becoming a political force rather than on putting on events. She strongly believes that if we're going to have an event, it should generate more income for businesses, and secondarily generate revenue for the Chamber. She suggested that we table events discussions until we have a new board. There was general agreement.

All agreed that the Board Retreat on Oct 24 was very good for all of us.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54am.

Respectfully submitted: Candee Rinde, Executive Secretary to the Chamber Board