

Cimarron Chamber of Commerce
Board Meeting
Thursday, October 02, 2014
Meeting Minutes

Call to order: 7:30am

In attendance: Steve Nelson, Vallerie Vickers, Sharon Smith, Candee Rinde

Steve motioned to approve the September Minutes. Vallerie 2nd. Unanimous vote. Minutes approved.

Meeting opened with a request for the Executive Secretary's Report. Candee stated she had nothing new to report since things had been fairly quiet and the same issues are pretty much still on the table.

Moving on to the Treasurer's Report: Steve did not have the financial reports ready yet, since it is too early for the bank statement to arrive. He mentioned that Sandy Sitzberger had retired from Piper Bookkeeping and that Michlyn Hobbs had taken over for both her and Kaycee Sandoval.

Discussions were made about the Explore the Arts financial issue. We recalled that we found the bank statement where the checks were written (Dec 2012) and tried to remember whether we found a deposit in the same amount.

Side Note: Candee checked the bank statements after the Meeting and found a deposit from the St. James on 12/28/12 in the amount of \$1,162.95. Twelve checks were written to ETA artists on 12/4/12 totaling \$2,148.62.

Discussions regarding the Lodger's Tax/debt to Village Hall were as follows:

- General agreement: Questioned whether it is legal for the Village Hall to withhold the Lodger's Tax from the Chamber, and that it is definitely illegal that there has not been appointed a Lodger's Tax Board.
 - A sit-down meeting between the Chamber, the Mayor, and the Village Hall is much needed. No Lodger's Tax means the Chamber/Visitor Center goes out of business.
 - Steve suggested to Vallerie that she take initiative on this, beings she is the President. Vallerie concurred and agreed to arrange a meeting to take place between October 15-20.
- Sharon stated that we need to see a document that was signed by the previous Board accepting the debt to the Village Hall. She (and other Board Members agreed) remembers only owing the Village Hall \$7,000 (amounting to about half).
- Steve asked if we could call for an accounting of the Lodger's Tax. Vallerie agreed that we should call for one. Sharon thought there might be a website where we can access that information.
- Steve interjected the question of why we were paying half of the cost for the port-a-potties. Sharon mentioned there was probably a verbal agreement made back during a time when the relationship between the Village Hall and the Chamber was more

amicable. Questions were raised as to why, in the last few months, there seems to be some tension on the part of the Village Hall toward the Chamber.

Team Reports:

- Cimarron Days- Sharon said this topic would be tabled until the Annual Board Retreat.
- Visitor Center- Vallerie stated that she invited the Council members and the mayor to our Retreat. She also said we have two, tentative, new Chamber Board Members: Jan Wessell & Kaye Peery. It was also agreed to call off all functions for now— everything would be tabled until the Retreat.

It was decided to appoint a team for By-Laws revision during the Board Retreat.

Steve stated that a Retreat Agenda was needed. All agreed and Sharon made several, very good suggestions:

1. Think outside the box. Things have changed and we can't go back to doing things how they were done before. We need to think differently about how we approach everything.
2. Examine the viability of the Chamber & its purpose. Not to suggest that the Chamber is not viable and has no purpose, but that these need to be specifically defined.
3. Lodger's Tax issue: It was agreed that this issue needs to be resolved BEFORE the Retreat, or else the Chamber will have to close and a Retreat will not be necessary. It was also agreed that we may need legal advice. It was discussed which lawyers Philmont utilizes (in Raton). Vallerie suggested we may be able to get help with this from the National or State Chamber office. Candee will check if there is a State Chamber and get their contact info. Sharon said the National Chamber was more 'legislative' in nature and probably wouldn't be helpful.
4. Membership- we need to rethink and beef up our membership benefits and make them more profitable to businesses. Rethink the membership levels as well. What can we offer besides co-op advertising and our website?
5. Study the Chamber by-laws. Do they line up with our purpose? Need to reorganize the Membership levels. It was also mentioned that we need to study the Lodger's Tax by-laws.
6. By-laws revision. Steve asked Candee to email him a copy of the Chamber by-laws and he will work on them.
7. What is the purpose of the Visitor Center? Do our practices line up with our purpose? Sharon also made these suggestions: Services? Collaborating with other organizations?

Each of these items was discussed as they were brought up.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27am.

Minutes taken & prepared by Candee Rinde.