

**GREATER GEORGETOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
THE GEORGETOWN TRAIN STATION
Wednesday, October 7, 2009
4:00 P.M.**

In Attendance: Debbie Hartstein, Joan Tyndall, Ashley Hoban, Ray Hopkins, Linda Price, John Riley, Rich Warfield, Bill Taylor, Kyle Morgan, Karen Duffield, Garry Killman, Buzz Matthews, Jeanne Dukes, Lit Dryden, Helen Kruger and Robin Parker.

Ray Hopkins, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm at the Georgetown Train Station, Georgetown, Delaware.

Minutes: The minutes were sent by email to all board members and copies were made available at the meeting.

Linda Price motioned to approve the minutes.
Kyle Morgan seconded.
Motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Joan Tyndall had emailed the treasurers report, Balance Sheet, and YTD Profit and Loss and copies were made available at the meeting.

Helen Kruger questioned the Bank Service Charge category. Kyle Morgan and Joan Tyndall explained that this expense is due to fees for donations using Visa/MasterCard. Certificate of Deposit interest formerly covered this expense; however, due to the decrease in savings rates that is not the case at this time.

Ray Hopkins questioned the expense of the Easter egg hunt. Karen Duffield, Joan Tyndall and Ashley Hoban spoke on the success of the event. Hopefully better weather and better sponsorship will eventually make the event expense free.

Buzz Matthews motioned to approve the treasurer report, Balance Sheet and YTD Profit and Loss.
Robin Parker seconded.
Motion Carried.

Third Quarter 2009 YTD figures –

Karen Duffield questioned several items including;

- 1) Advertising – \$500.00 - Town's payment for Ad
- 2) Wings and Wheels Inc and Exp - it is noted that the actual working expense budget was revised to \$7480 by committee

- 3) Christmas Dinner – to be discussed
- 4) Publications – Joan is checking into \$250.00
- 5) Scholarship - \$1000 still be held for student until 2010.

Chamber By-Laws – Amendments have been made and all Board members were given copies. Lit Dryden voiced his concern with Page 8 and Section 2. He wants it to be clear that the Economic Development meetings are open for anyone, not only Chamber members.

Membership – We now have 435 members. A membership committee meeting was held on October 5 and was very successful. A membership drive flyer will be sent to current members. A card will be created for members to give to referrals with information on becoming a new member.

3 ribbon cuttings were held in September at Barnes Healthcare, Georgia House Café, and Colter Construction.

There will be a ribbon cutting on October 14 at Home Health Care at 10:00.

Economic Development Council – Lit Dryden discussed the Economic Development meeting. Several Chamber Directors were in attendance including John Riley, Jeanne Dukes, Debbie Hartstein, Joan Tyndall, and Buzz Matthews. Bill Pfaff from the Small Business Development Center was the information provider. Bill gave his perspective on the small retail markets in Georgetown and how the economy is affecting them. Julie Wheatley also gave her perspective on a different level of business that was not as gloomy. At the meeting, Randall Cash discussed an event that will be held in November. This event will be in conjunction with Danny Short from the Seaford Chamber of Commerce. All chambers will be notified and all small businesses owners will be invited to speak out on problems that they are having. The location has not been decided. There will be a fee for the meal. Karen Duffield will email updates of this event. Jane Armstrong will be the speaker at the November SBA meeting.

Wings and Wheels Update – Kyle Morgan reported that the event is rolling along. The sponsorships are on point and things are going as planned. The last meeting will be held on October 15 2009, at 3 p.m. at the airport. Volunteers for the event are much needed. We need to get chamber members involved along with the Board of Directors. Help will be needed with directing traffic, collecting parking fees, and in the survey-information booth. There will be one hour shifts and clean up help is very important. Due to the trick or treating being held in Georgetown that night, members without children would be very helpful. Kyle suggested a new chairperson for the 2010 event will be necessary. Lit Dryden questioned the parking fee. There will be free parking or \$1.00 for preferred parking will also be available.

Parade Update – Ray Hopkins reported that the balloons for the parade will be contingent on sponsorship. A letter will be given to all Board members asking for some kind of financial contribution to the 2009 parade. A balloon sponsorship form was also given to all board members. Several businesses will be called by members that contributed to last year's parade. Jeanne Dukes expressed how important it is to have a 100% commitment from the Board members.

Nominating Committee for 2010- Linda Price reported that she has sent an email to all current officers asking for interest in current positions. She will need a response by next week.

Christmas Party – Karen Duffield reported that she and Toby Givens met earlier to discuss some possible changes. Due to the Christmas season and several parties on weekends, a Christmas Mixer was discussed in lieu of the dinner. The Cheer Center will be the location and the date will be on Thursday, December 10. The mixer will be held from 5 -8 p.m. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. Karen will discuss the price with the Georgia House and later report to the committee. The committee will decide whether to charge for any visitors to this event. Installation of officers will be held at this party. Several ideas were discussed regarding items members could donate and bring to the mixer that would help the needy. This will be discussed more at another time. RSVP for this party is very important. Last years Christmas Party cost the Chamber approximately \$5000. Hopefully the scale down will be beneficial. Sky Brady may be booked for the entertainment.

New Business- Karen Duffield asked for clarification on two advertising expenses.

- 1) The Georgetown Little League sign - this will be paid under advertising. The sign has been posted all year.
- 2) The festival of trees – Delaware Hospice - this will be paid under advertising. There is a sign posted at Del Tech. The wreath will be given as a door prize at the Christmas mixer.

Door Prizes at Mixers – Helen Kruger voiced her concerns on prizes at past mixers. She suggested that members are called in advance and requested to bring a labeled gift to be given as a door prize. A \$25.00 value would be advised. More recognition is necessary for prize donators. An announcement should be made at the mixer of any donations.

Ambulance anniversary – Bill Taylor announced the 90 year anniversary of the ambulance service in Georgetown. This service was started on 10-07-1919. The ambulance service is looking for land on the east side of the rail road tracks. Unfortunately 6 to 10 calls are missed monthly due to the train. If anyone has land to donate, contact Bill Taylor.

Finance Committee Meeting –Rich Warfield suggested that the Personnel committee meet to discuss the 2010. Once they have made a decision, they will need to present it to the Finance Committee. The VIP Partnership will also need to be discussed. Debbie Hartstein will be checking into this meeting.

Motion was made at 5:05 by Kyle Morgan to adjourn the meeting.

Buzz Matthews seconded.

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted
Robin Parker, Secretary