

Hill City Area Chamber of Commerce met on Sunday January 17, 2010 at Harry's for a dinner, speaker and meeting.

About 28 people attended this event. The evening started with socialization and appetizers, followed by meal.

After the meal Bud Stone, from Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce spoke. He told how the chamber functions and what it does the area. He stated should have a goal for the organization and start with 3 priorities – plan of actions – for the group to work toward, then use those priorities for encouraging people/businesses/organizations to become involved showing how we worked together toward those priorities for the area. Priorities do not have to just benefit Hill City, but the whole surrounding area. He stated he would be more than happy to help us in any way that he can-he is just a call away.

He stated Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce has membership of about 550 raising membership fees totaling about \$200,000.00 with budget of \$300,000.00. They are one of the most aggressive Chambers.

After Bud's presentation Dave Lange gave a summary of what Hill City Chamber and other various organizations and people have done in the past year to promote and benefit the area.

Hill City's Chamber than had a short business meeting.

The secretary's report was given, Mavis Gowell made a motion to accept the minutes motion second by Mark Meyer, motion passed.

The treasurer was not present to give a report.

Bill Klennert made a motion to pay bill to Harry's for the dinner up to \$500, motion second by Ella Kingsley motion passed. Mark Meyer made motion to pay Lake Country Power bill, invoice from Kim Niles for \$75.84 for maintaining Chamber web-site, \$21.00 to Kathy Bounds for plants that she purchased for Chamber to give to Corner Club for new owners and Blue Moon for their expansion. Also need to pay \$250.00 to Jessica Stuber-Benzie for scholarship she had won from HC Chamber last spring. Motion second by Shirley Spenser, motion passed.

Kathy Bounds made a motion to donate \$100.00 for Santa that was here in December. Motion second by Tom Fasteland, motion passed.

There was discussion about 2010 4th of July celebration – whether to do parade on Saturday July 3rd or Sunday July 4th. For the next meeting (in February) we need to decide what day to do the parade, pick theme to center button design and other things around, finance committee, and other items that need to be set now and not wait till June to take care of.

Dave Lange discussed possibly having shirts printed-with advertizing, names of businesses, like did for Harlem Ambassador's event, (businesses pay to be listed) then sell the shirts as money maker for the 4th and promoting the 4th in Hill City. It was also suggested could maybe sell advertizing on our flyers. We will need volunteers to be on various committees to help do the work and not just make suggestions and expect it to get done.

Greg Bounds has been checking into cost of insurance for the Chamber to get to cover the Chamber and the events it sponsors and is involved in. It was stated in the past the Chamber was included under the City's policy for a fee- should check into see if this is still possible.

It was discussed about the softball tournament that Bill Klennert puts on each summer, possibly sanction it as Chamber event. Corner Club would like to maybe involve in it also-what are consequences if they drink there then come play at school field-also insurance cost for using the school's softball fields need to be discussed.

The Easter Egg Hunt that the Chamber will be held at Quadna on Saturday, April 3rd at 11am. Hollie Hanson will be in charge of the committee for this event. It was stated that we need new eggs to use this year.

Jacobson community does their Easter event the Saturday before Easter weekend. Jacobson is also doing there St Urhos Day Pancake Feed on Feb. 13th.

Randy Fredrick, contractor out at Quadna on their remodeling, discussed what has been done and is being done out there at mainly the Lodge. They hope to be open possibly on Super Bowl Sunday.

Brian Bauerly from Quanda Mountain Park talked about how they want to promote that area more and get more events scheduled out there. They are bring back the "Return of The Moose is Loose on Sunday March 15. The weekend of March 13-15 there will be Double Race and Hill Cross Snowmobile Races at Quanda. They would like to make it a very family friendly event with lots of activities also included for children. He talked about also possibly hosting a concert out there this summer (not the 4th of July weekend), maybe in August and try to include various businesses and groups as a fundraiser for them.

Mark Meyer asked if the Chamber would be will to pay part of the fireworks this year for 4th of July. We will discuss this more at the next Chamber meeting when we are discussing other 4th of July weekend events.

The next Chamber meeting will be on Weds February 17, at 6pm at meeting room at Hill City Community building (old Woodland Bank building).