
Anthony Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors Minutes

November 18, 2009

A regular meeting of the Anthony Chamber of Commerce was held on November 18, 2009, at Smokehouse Café & Supper Club. Board of Directors present was Bryant Anderson, Vicky Knapic, Karen Younce, Judy Brummer, John Gaffney, Ron Poor, Lori Allen, Mary Hixson and Gwen Warner. Absent was J.D. Hays and Tim Gates. Also present was Mitchell Hall and Bob Tedder.

President, Bryant Anderson called the meeting to order at 12:11 p.m. Minutes of the previous meeting of November 4, 2009 were presented and approved as printed by motion from Vicky Knapic, seconded by Mary Hixson. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ❑ **Veterans Day** – Gwen reported that the Veterans Day was very successful with the committee receiving many compliments. The audience especially enjoyed having Jerrod Hays as our speaker. The Veterans Museum hosted by the school children was a big hit again this year. The involvement of the school children is welcomed very much by those attending the program.
 - ❑ **Christmas Parade** – The Christmas Parade will be November 27, 2009 with lineup beginning at Memorial Park (west) at 4:30 p.m. Reminders have been sent out.
 - ❑ **Christmas Arts & Crafts Show** – Gwen reported reminded those present is that we will probably need a little help in setting up for the show. The Chaparral Band will be doing the concessions to raise funds for their band trip next year. Vicky Knapic reported that the Fundraising Committee raised \$589.99 with their concessions at the November Arts & Crafts Show. Vicky thanked all who donated and worked to make this possible.
 - ❑ **Christmas Business Decorating Contest** – Gwen reported that we have several businesses signed up for the contest. The deadline for signup is December 5. After the signup voting will take place until December 19 with the winners announced at the City Commission Meeting on December 21.
 - ❑ **Santa House Location** – Karen Younce reported that various locations had been considered for the Santa House but problems in wiring finally dictated that the house be placed in front of the Anthony Theater. The merchants especially wanted the house in the downtown since plans included having the Candy Cane Cash Drawings at the Santa House. Gwen mentioned that one of the city employees has informed her that the Santa House is not in very good repair. They have offered to build a new house if we can furnish the supplies. They also recommended that we should try to find a permanent location if possible. They suggested Memorial Park.
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Downtown Discussion** – Ron Poor read the motion made at last meeting by J.D. Hays. The committee has met twice since this motion was made. The committee has met with Kevin Cowan who is the bond council for the City of Anthony. He is the person who would be instrumental in the CID if we chose to go that way. He would be guiding us through the CID and the subsequent bond issue that would come from that. His comment when we met with him was (after he explained what the CID was) was that the city would own the property, the city would issue the bonds, the city would pay for the construction of the speck building etc. Our response to him was that was not our preference and we thought that the city's preference also was for the city not to be involved in ownership of downtown property. Instead it would be in a separate entity that was created just for that purpose or some other arrangement not owned by the city. His comment was that that was probably doable. He was flexible on this issue.
- The second meeting was yesterday and the Downtown Committee came up with this. Go back to the city commission and propose that the formation of a separate entity, whether it's a corporation or a LLC and that entity would own the property and be responsible for the development of the property. We would ask the Anthony City Commissioners to amend their motion to remove the creation of a new committee, leaving in place the current seven (7) member committee appointed by the Chamber, known as the Downtown Planning Commission.
- Our recommendation to the commission would be not to require the formation of a 501(c)3 as they previously had recommended, if we could find other options to funnel the funds. Mitchell Hall has volunteered to work on a draft of the by-laws for the new corporation. Once we have a draft we will present it to the Chamber Board and the City Commission. This would be a framework to work from and nothing would be completed until both entities had a chance to put their thought into it.
- John Gaffney commented that one of the reasons the theater group didn't form a separate 501(c)3 and continue to be affiliated with the RC & D which is a 501(c)3 is because the rules in terms of setting up and justifying a new 501(c)3 are much more stringent that they used to be. If you can find one that is already in existence that is willing to take on being an umbrella affiliate with the downtown project we would be better off.
- Bob Tedder said that he didn't have a problem with the recommendation as above presented. He just wanted accountability as to how things are being done. He personally doesn't care who is doing it he just wants the city to have some accountability as to how the funds are being spent.
- Ron Poor stated that the objective from the Chamber's perspective is that we don't want city hall owning property on Main Street. We want the business community to have that responsibility. Tedder said that the city didn't want to own property as has been stated before.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) **Annual Meeting Date** – No date has been set yet but it is time to start checking our calendars.
- 2) **Annual Meeting Committee** – Vicky Knapic is chairman of this committee and she will be asking Tami Greve if she would like to assist.
- 3) **Budget Committee** – Bryant reminded the budget committee (Bryant Anderson, Mary Hixson and Gwen Warner) that it is time to begin work on the budget.
- 4) **Office Discussion** – President, Bryant Anderson recommended that we go into executive session to discuss the purchase of property.

OTHER BUSINESS

Meeting Adjourned: No action was taken after the executive session. A motion was made by Vicky Knapic, seconded by Lori Allen to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Gwen Warner, Executive Director.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Candy Cane Cash Retail Promo begins November 28, 2009
- The next Chamber meeting is December 2, 2009 at Smokehouse Café & Supper Club.
- *Christmas Arts & Crafts Fair* is December 5, 2009
- *1st Candy Cane Cash Drawing* is December 5 at 2 p.m. (\$500)
- *2nd Candy Cane Cash Drawing* is December 12 at 2 p.m. (\$500)
- *3rd Candy Cane Cash Drawing* is December 19 at 2 p.m. (\$1,000)