

South Platte United Chambers of Commerce

September 10, 2013

The Executive Committee and membership of the South Platte United Chambers of Commerce met in McCook on September 10, 2013 at Heritage Hills Country Club. President pro tem Rex Nelson, Merrill Duntz, Nancy Herhahn, Kevin Poppe, Betty Sayers, Tim Anderson

Rex Nelson, president pro tem, called the meeting to order. Minutes were unavailable as was the financial report. The agenda was approved.

Old Business

Future meetings ** indicates speaker is committed

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Responsible</u>
**Oct. 8, 2013	Minden Opera House	Linda Black Department of Econ. Dev.	Betty S
Nov. 12, 2013	NCTA	Ron Rosati, Dean	Rex N.
**Dec. 10, 2013	virtual	Retreat	Kevin Poppe
Jan. 14, 2014	Minden	Doug Christensen	????
Feb. 11, 2013	Hastings, Bowling Alley	Richard Baier	Tim Anderson
March 11, 2014	McCook/Imperial	State Sen. Forum	????
April 8, 2014	Holdrege/Speakeasy	Gubernatorial Candidates	
May 13, 2014	Alma, Navigator	Jim Douglas Game & Parks	Tim Anderson
June 10, 2014	Minden Opera House	Senator Hadley	????
July 8, 2014	Cambridge?	Golf	????
Aug. 12, 2014	no meeting?		
Sept. 9, 2014	Hastings	Tim Miles	Tom H.
October 14, 2014	McCook	Lt Gov. Heidemann	
November 11, 2014	Holdrege	Nebraska Tourism	Twila

Membership and Billing

Merrill Duntz suggested that members who participate in making organizational decisions likely participate more and attend meetings, and to that end, we need to eliminate the Board meeting and include membership in one meeting prior to the dinner and speaker. Merrill Duntz also said that the Exec. Committee could plan the meeting via a conference call prior to the meeting date.

Voting was tabled until the October meeting.

Legislative Candidates

Tim Anderson suggested that the South Platte invite the Legislative and Gubernatorial to introduce themselves and their candidacy at one meeting between October 2013 and February 2014. Betty Sayers will draft an invitation to the candidates.

President's Tour

Dates: April and May 2014

Merrill Duntz will organize the President's tour. We will send letters to the Chamber Directors in the South Platte region to invite the South Platte United Chambers of Commerce to their community and introduce us to their Boards of Directors and other Chamber members.

Nominating Committee

Tim Anderson and Merrill Duntz reported no progress on recruiting a new slate of officers for the South Platte organization. Suggestion was made to lead the organization from the Executive Committee. Rex Nelson and Merrill Duntz said that one leader is needed to oversee the various committees and to notice when more action and outcomes are needed.

The slate of officers was tabled until the October meeting.

Pay Speaker

Rex Nelson said that on occasion the South Platte will need to pay the speaker, example: Tim Miles. Nancy Herhahn suggested that the South Platte develop a budget item for paying speakers. Most importantly, the plan to pay a speaker needs to be organized in advance, and the President has the authority to make a decision to pay the speaker.

Pay Meals for Guests

Occasionally, it is a courtesy to comp. meals for guests. The President has the authority to decide to comp. a meal for a guest on occasion.

Dues Reciprocity

Members decided that reciprocity no matter the difference in dues will be equal if both parties are SPUCC members. Event Promotion: Events may be promoted on the SPUCC web site by SPUCC members only.

Legislative Issues

No issues

Community Comments

- Holdrege Nebraska Rural Living September edition published a page of Key Employers in the South Platte region and their websites with the intent that job seekers may contact potential employers via the business website.
- A coffee shop serving espresso and other fine coffees and teas and lunch opened for business. The Coffee business is located on 4th Ave. across from KUVR Radio Station.
- Imperial The Cornerstone housing edition is in process. The community is developing 14 new homes for rentals.
- Grant The Grant Hospital is building an edition to house a new patient room and emergency room.
- A restaurant was purchased on auction on Grant main street. The former restaurant will house an HVAC appliance store with a coffee shop storefront.
- Campbell The nursing home is for sale. The Lutheran Church recently installed all new windows.
- Clay Center Old Trustee Days in Clay Center attracted 8-10 thousand people.
- Bladen A young farmer bought the café and bar in Bladen and is renovating it. The premises will be attractive and a potential meeting place for the South Platte organization.
- The Trailblazer RC&D is supported by 7 counties and continues to meet and accomplish their mission.
- McCook Twila Witt presented a brief summary of changes and accomplishments of the newly reorganized Nebraska Tourism Commission including three newly hired positions and experiences of attending the Travel Show at Winnipeg, Manitoba in Canada. The Nebraska Tourism Commission hired Geiger and Assoc., a travel writers group. They planned a tour for 30 travel writers, and they visited the Omaha Metro Area, Lincoln Highway, Central Nebraska to see the cranes, Red Cloud and Hastings. In June the Canadian Traveler Association visited Western Nebraska.
- Future meetings sponsored by Nebraska Tourism:
Oct. 23 and 24 Nebraska Travel Conference in Norfolk and scholarships available
Feb. 3 and 4 Eco-Tourism, Carol Patterson key note speaker

Respectfully submitted, Betty Sayers

Following the business meeting, the Bieroc Café served a tasty dinner to 25 guests and members. Following dinner, Ralph Scott manager of Trenton Agri Products in Cambridge and Erick Meeuwsen, manager of Nebraska Corn Processing in Trenton spoke about the industry including production data, wet distiller grain information, data on benefits to the local and state economies, benefits to the environment, and future predictions on production. Their reports were positive for the industry and informative.

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