



**Chamber of Commerce Membership Meeting  
February 14, 2008  
Minutes**

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**1. Members in Attendance:** David Kell, Greene County Department of Development; Ellen Hoover, Millworks; Susan Miller, YSI; Christi Cox, Greene County Library; Karen Wintrow, YS Chamber of Commerce; Chuck and Letha Kimball, Kimballs Estate Jewelry; Mike Peirano, PT Cruiser BUS; Norm Glissmann, YS Schools; Macy Reynolds, United Methodist Church; Rick Kristensen, ReMax Realty; Mark Alexander, 2 Clowns Mowing; Roger Reynolds, Chamber Music YS; Dave Boyer, Boyer Consulting/WPAFB; Jennifer Horner, Creative Explorations; Vicki McClellan and Benjamin Smith, Ertel Publishing; Richard Lapedes, YS School Board; Lynda Sirk, Antioch College; Christine O. Roberts, Economic Development; Donna Avnaim, Déjà Vu; Bill Bebko, YS Men's Group

**2. Minutes:**

Motion to accept minutes from January 2008 meeting (Bebko, Kostic). Approval Unanimous.

**3. Announcements:**

*3<sup>rd</sup> Friday Fling*, February 15<sup>th</sup> - Romance theme with carriage rides, prize packages, hidden art, and brewing demonstrations at Main Squeeze.

Next *Business after Hours* will be held at McGregor; Cathy Paige will review visitor's survey, Tod Tyslan will discuss marketing strategies and the updated 2008 Marketing Plan for the Chamber.

*Regenesis Group* - a discussion by planners and architects with an environmental ecological focus. The presentation will revolve about what the group can offer Yellow Springs and what it has done with other communities.

*Smithsonian Exhibit* this summer at Xenia Library.

**Presentation on Upcoming School Levy**, Lapedes and Glissman. Discussion of a permanent improvement levy of 1.2 mil that replaces a levy that expires on December 31, 2008. A levy schedule was distributed so that members could understand the scope of YS levy's that are currently underway through 2014. This permanent levy can only be used for capital expenses. Questions followed regarding the Ohio finance Settlement funds; roof HVAC replacement; income tax drop – financial % of revenue derived from property taxes.

**4. Reports**

**Board Report:** The Chamber of Commerce Board met on February 13<sup>th</sup> with Fred Bartenstein facilitating the 2008 strategic plans retreat. Once again, Fred offered his services pro bono for which the Board is very grateful.

The Board goals for 2008 are:

1. Build awareness, support and image of YSCC
2. Provide leadership in economic development
3. Market the Village as a destination

Two issues were also discussed at great length: economic development and staffing and the definition of a sustainable business environment.

All board members will participate in at least one goal during the year. The sub-committees will report on their focus at the March 10 meeting.

**Finance Report:**

No report.

**Committee Reports: no report**

**Staff Report:**

The Chamber currently has 247 members.

Special thanks to Lamar Spracklen, Margaret Silliman and Carmen Milano, the January hosts of the Business After Hours at the new Yellow Springs Country Bed & Breakfast.

The June Street Fair will offer beer sales for the first time. A Beer Garden featuring a unique selection of microbrews will be set up in front of the Bryan Center. The music will be relocated to the same site and a family area will be considered at Mills Lawn.

Parking will be addressed as will the congestion issues on Short Street.

The Marketing Fund Proposal and the status of various projects was reported.

**5. Special Guest – Dave Kell, Greene County Department of Development**

Dave Kell presented a PowerPoint presentation on the *Business First!* program – a regional retention expansion program. The program seeks to keep business in existing locations, or keep in the region. 30 jurisdictions are involved with BF: 20 in Montgomery County; 4 in Miami; 4 in Greene; 2 in Warren. The program offers Outreach Specialists, business links, and a total of 80 Regional Resource Partner members with approximately 134 individuals ready to assist and serve regional businesses. For further information, call Eric Swansen at 767-1279 or David Kell at 937/562-5351.

**6. Agenda for Upcoming Meetings**

Plan a speaker for every membership meeting- contact the Chamber office if you have suggestions on a topic.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 am.

Membership Meeting: March 13<sup>th</sup>, Antioch Inn, 12:00 noon

Business After Hours - Curves.

3<sup>rd</sup> Friday Fling - March 21<sup>st</sup> - Spirit of Yellow Springs

Minutes submitted by Elisabeth DeForest