

Chamber of Commerce Membership Meeting
August 9, 2007
Minutes

Members in Attendance: Christi Cox, Community Engagement – Greene Co. Library; Rod and Ellen Hoover, Millworks; Jacki Mayer, WYSO; Jerry Sutton, YSCC; Susan Miller, YSI; Roger Hart, Upland Corp; Diane Chiddister, YS News; Dan Young, Young's Jersey Dairy; Anne Bohlen; John Booth; Bill Bebko, Men's Group; Donna Avnaim, Déjà Vu; Billie Eastman, Better Health Co-op; Pat Murphy, Community Solutions; Beth Holyoke, Arts Council; Craig Measure, Burlyman Cleaning; Eric Swanson, Village Manager; Ann Miles, Current Cuisine; Norm Glismann, YS EVSD; Kelly Randall, YS Family Clinic; Terre Pope, Global Gallery; Don Welre; Joan Ackerman, YSCF; Dimi Reber, Small Growth; Gina Paget; Susanne Oldham, Arthur Morgan House; Pete Banner, Credit Union; Sherryl Kostic, "would you, could you" IN A FRAME; Migiwa Orimo; Marianne MacQueen, Home, Inc.; Marianne Whelchel; Bryon Dann, Joan Horn, Glen Helen Association; Bill Houston; John Hart, YS Books Liquidator; Gordon Chapman; Karen Wintrow, Chamber Coordinator; Judith Wolert-Maldonado.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM, followed by a mission statement and goals of the Chamber of Commerce. The President (Hoover) read a letter that is on the Chamber website regarding the background of membership meetings. This was followed by Introductions of the members.

Announcements:

A new business has joined the chamber membership, "Burlyman Cleaning," specializing in housecleaning and office building cleaning with 20 years of experience.

Business after Hours: The "Business after Hours" at Antique Power in July was well attended. The August event will be at the Village Greenery business. Owner, Mitch George, will host an open discussion on ideas for marketing and advertising Yellow Springs businesses at 6:30 pm.

Approval of the minutes for July 12, 2007 as stated (Bebko, Ackerman).

Board Report: The Board focused on the marketing committee; coverage for the Chamber office while the coordinator is on vacation next week. The street fair committee was discussed at length, and a decision to extend the street fair to 6:00 pm was approved.

Finance Report: Tabled approval until next membership meeting.

Staff Report: 242 total members: (175 voting/ 75 non-voting).

- The street fair applications have gone out. Signup for local members begin on the 19th with YS residents and non-members after that. Booth fees have been raised for the October event.
- Blues Fest – currently discussing public relations possibilities with Faith Patterson.
- Year-long campaign from "WYSO Keep the Green in YS", to encourage folks to discover YS.
- "Think TV" commercial targeted for the Holiday season.
- Project to draw McGregor students downtown with a coupon book.
- Postcards of YS will be updated
- Memorial bricks are for sale in front of the Train Station. Proceeds will be used for projects around the station, signage, etc.

- YS Brochure is out-of-date so as a stop gap, an insert will be placed in the brochure, to be geared towards visitors (i.e. accommodations, dining, stores).
- At the September meeting, Kim Baker will talk about Sensible Shelter for very low-income participants. The Morgan Foundation has devoted money towards this cause in the hopes that employees of local businesses can take advantage.

Guest Speakers for August Membership Meeting: Dave Boyer and Anita Skipper from Wright Patterson Air Force Base. The purpose of their talks is to reach out to area communities to make a stronger bond. Dave is a long-time YS resident and he explained how WPAFB is reaping the benefits of growth whereas many other bases will be downsized. WPAFB has the good fortune of the air force research lab, and five of its' main technical directors are here. The acquisition function and logistics function are prominent here; three strong congressional districts; the base is large, the cost of living is positive; excellent school systems and family oriented atmosphere. Retirees tend to stay in the base area instead of retiring elsewhere. He spoke about ways for surrounding communities to tap into the growth that WPAFB will be experiencing from 2007-11, by attracting visitors, residents and small businesses to the village.

Economic impacts: Largest single site employer in Ohio with a \$1.25 billion payroll and a \$3.35 billion economic impact in the four county region (Greene, Clark, Montgomery, and Miami). The base will be a center of excellence for sensor research, aero medical research, education and training. A lot of PhD's will be coming to the area, however only 20-30% of the people come with the job. Therefore, they will be looking for people to fill jobs - many construction positions, 500 civilian positions; and \$350 million will be spent in infrastructure upgrades, and approximately 3800 people will be coming to this area.

What can YS do? Get involved and be engaged. Anita spoke about what families moving to the area will be researching. They look at quality education for kids, crime rate, taxes, median income, demographics, school system ratings, commute time, and areas that are family oriented. She stressed that the internet sites be user friendly and up to date.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM (Schmidt, Mayer).

Next meeting: September 13th noon, at Antioch Inn.

Minutes submitted by Elisabeth DeForest