

**RIVERSIDE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF
TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2010
Called for 6:00 p.m.
At the Riverside Public Library**

<i>Chamber Board</i>	David Moravecek	President
	Rick Rovella	Vice President, Events Coordinator
	Keith Wright	Vice President, Membership
	Brian Brennan	Vice President, Publicity & Public Relations-Absent
	Dorothy Sikora	Secretary
	Carol Franzo	Treasurer
	Holiday Stroll Chair	Brian Brennan
	Car Show Chair	Rick Rovella
	Steak Fry Chair	Eric Sundstrom

Called to order by President, Dave Moravecek at 6:05 p.m. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance

32 members were present, including Village Trustees; Jean Sussman and Ben Sells and EDC member Gary Gryczan, LAC member Terri Lynne and Village Manager, Peter Scalera.

Secretary's Report

A copy of the Minutes of the Meeting of February 16, 2010 was reviewed, and with a motion from Joe Dvorak, seconded by Alex Gallegos, unanimously approved, will stand as recorded, and is posted on the Chamber's website.

Treasurer's Report

Carol Franzo advised that the current checking account balance is \$16,482.02, with no activity other than membership deposits.

A draft of the proposed Budget for 2010 was reviewed as presented by Carol Franzo. Income projections were estimated at a lower than expected amount. Projected Expenses were reviewed and a suggestion to create a line item for Community Funding Requests rather than individual budgeted line items was met with agreement by the membership. The plan to assign a percentage of Income to donation requests was discussed, as well as the establishment of a fund for long term projects that will benefit the membership and Central Business District. A suggestion to table further decisions and discussions on this Budget until all new requests were received at this meeting was agreed on.

Village Updates – Landscape Beds in CBD

Village Trustee, Ben Sells presented a brief background of the landscape concerns and plans for the Central Business District. This ongoing problem and concern for appearance in the CBD as well as accessibility to businesses is about to finally have a full-scaled plan for improvements. He then introduced Landscape Advisory Commissioner, Terri Lynne. Terri presented a very detailed and graphic display of the current planters and the plans to enhance them. An email with all this information, including a printable poster for all businesses to place in their storefronts will be sent out. The bottom line is; this will be a collaboration between the Chamber and its members, Olmsted Society, Garden Club, RB High School and volunteers. The projected budget for this phase of the project is \$4600.00. Many of the plantings will come from donations from local gardeners, as well as seedling planting.

Dave Moravecek thanked her for her many hours of hard work, research and determination to help improve the CBD. He reminded the members that the timing of this project is perfect for everyone to come together now that the approvals to move forward have been obtained. Individual donations are being accepted along with a volunteer request for help with physical labor. The first cleanup is set for March 31st. Additional dates are April 3rd, April 21st (Earth Day with RB students), April 24th, April 30th Rain Date and May 29th Planting Day Event. Peter Scalera, Village Manager, also advised that bike racks will be added to key areas and grant possibilities are being investigated. There is a line item in the Village Budget for this project.

Olga Sylvester moved to table all requests for donation till later in the meeting. Alex Gallegos seconded the motion. The group agreed.

Bike Routes

Tom Jacobs, of the Riverside Sustainability Council, addressed the membership with two proposed new bike routes in Riverside. While the issue of a bike path or lane has been discussed for many years, after the Cook County Forest Preserve's extension of bike routes west and south of Riverside last year, a focus to have Riverside included in this venture was organized. He explained where the two new routes are to be located. The first, Riverside Heritage Route begins at 26th Street – Bartram – Addison – Cowley and then east on Burlington through the CBD and then south the long way through the first division going into Lyons. The second, Ring Route is more of a recreational route along Riverside's perimeter curvy roads. It is hoped that signage could be as minimal as a painted stencil of a bicycle along the curbs of the routes.

He asked for a statement of endorsement from the membership for this idea. It will be discussed and reviewed at the April 5, 2010 Village Board meeting. Members asked questions and voiced concerns about bicyclist being educated and informed to follow the Rules of the Road.

Arts Fair

Jean Sussman and Gary Gryczan addressed the Board regarding the May 22-23 Arts Fair and their need for sponsorship. They discussed some changes for this year's fair. The children's tent will be moved over to be open in front of Chew Chew and Grumpy's. There will be music entertainment in Centennial Park. The Chicago Tribune will include this fair in their pullout section on art fairs and ours is the first one of the year. Concern by members was raised about the location of the fair and the closing down of the CBD main street for an entire weekend which has caused loss in revenue and much inconvenience. It was stated that is physically laid out to not generate business. It was agreed that it is a great event, but modifications would help the CBD businesses. Discussions will continue for future fairs.

Mr. Gryczan announced that he is working on an electronic new business welcome site. Please contact him with input.

Mollies Pub is open on Forest Avenue. Ribbon cutting event to be determined.

Parking/CBD Issues

Dave Moravecek asked Mr. Scalera about the parking lot signs. They are still waiting for materials to make the signs. Dave asked about the status of the Masonic Lodge parking lot: Pete advised that an agreement has been sent to them and the Village is waiting to hear back from them. Dave reiterated that Chamber members feel strongly that 61/63 Burlington still needs to be a parking lot and hopes it will still be considered for one.

Dave also expressed appreciation for the enforcement of parking laws but unfortunately, one our newest members, Riverside Orthopaedic at 353 E. Burlington had many of their patients ticketed

while receiving care. Mr. Scalera advised that the CSO will be checking with them and they are working out a system for allowing patient parking.

Dave also asked if either handing flowering baskets or banners could be allowed in the CBD from the light poles. Yes, it would be allowed. Large container planters were also inquired about, and they will be considered once the “Riverside Springs Forward” planting is complete and growing.

Mr. Scalera advised that last month’s concerns about the sewers backing up on Burlington have been resolved and will continue to be monitored.

Membership

Keith Wright presented the newest membership list. All unpaid memberships will be removed from mailings and listings.

Publicity

Brian Brennan was absent.

Upcoming Events

Rick Rovella advised that approvals have been received for the 2010 Car Shows. They will remain the 2nd Thursday of each summer month June 10, July 8 & August 12, and Sunday, September 26. In keeping with Chamber events being “business friendly,” Rick asked Scott if he might be interested in a mockup of his proposed boardwalk complete with tables and chairs and an event grill to be set up at the Car Shows to present the idea more visually. The idea was met with enthusiasm.

Tote Bags

Terri Tabor was absent, so Dave Moravec presented a sample of tote bags which could be sold by all interested members and will be imprinted with *Love Riverside, Shop Riverside* on one side. Member sponsor logos will be imprinted on the other side. These would be promoted for sale at the planting events, emphasizing the Chamber’s sponsorship of the CBD landscaping improvements, as well as at the Car Shows, Farmers Markets, Art Fair and other events. The idea of having a drawing for gift certificates to be used at Riverside Chamber businesses would be an incentive to purchase these bags. Scott Zimmer, of Chew Chew is hoping to have similar bags for his carryout business. This will need to be moved forward quickly to take advantage of upcoming events.

E-Blast and Slide Shows

Greg Gorski advised that software for polling on the Chamber website is available for \$49.95. The website now had recent events on UTube. A quick visit to site showed how this polling could work. Alex Gallegos moved, and Olga Sylvester seconded a motion to purchase this software. The motion passed.

Chamber Old, New and For the Good of Discussion

The recent polling of the membership for meeting times resulted in a 3-way tie: 8 for 7pm, 8 for 6:30pm and 7 for 6pm with many saying they were amicable to the other times. We will try a 6:30pm meeting for April and see how it works out. Given the length of this meeting, starting too much later will make for a very late evening.

The Riverside Police have again requested co-sponsorship of their Annual Police Person of the Year tribute. Typically, Chamber purchases the plaque at a cost of \$200. Better pricing for the plaque will be investigated. Joe Dvorak moved, and Eric Sundstrom seconded a motion to sponsor this event at a cost of no more than \$200. The motion passed.

Alex Gallegos has been attending Village Board meetings and will be the Chamber representative at these bi-monthly meetings.

Peter Scalera expressed his open door policy as Village Manager and welcomed everyone to call or come to see him when there are issues or concerns. He is there to help.

Jonathan Gorney of RB Young Life announced the organizations upcoming Golf Outing (May 20th – Fresh Meadows) with opportunities for sponsorship, as well as a day of golf, lunch and dinner. This RBHS group has been very helpful at every Chamber event and hosts 70-80 kids at their weekly meetings. Information will be forwarded to the membership.

After much discussion, Joe Dvorak moved and Chris Canavera seconded a sponsorship of \$250 for the Riverside Arts Fair. The motion passed.

With great delight that this project of improved landscaped beds in the CBD, which promotes Chamber's mission of focus on the CBD; Art Canavera moved and Rick Rovella seconded a motion to sponsor \$3500 for the Riverside Springs Forward project. The motion passed.

Art Canavera moved and Scott Zimmer seconded a motion to endorse the new proposed bike routes for Riverside as presented by Tom Jacobs. The motion passed with Joe Dvorak casting a dissenting vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Sikora, Recording Secretary