

Portland Main Street Economic Revitalization Committee
Minutes
March 18, 2010, 8:00AM
Cheeky Monkeys Coffeehouse & Bakery

Attendance: Diane Smith, Bernie Pelc, Ed Bishopp
Visitor: Bill
Missing: Terry Frewen, Kory Blastic
Staff: Patrick Reagan

New Meeting Dates:

The Committee decided to meet the LAST THURSDAY of each month in the future, with the next two meetings being April 29 and May 27.

Old Business

Work Plan Items

1. ***Business Assistance Team/Seminars:*** Diane reported that she talked with the SBTDC and they are planning to provide speakers for the following sessions beginning in June and will get details back to her before the April meeting: Fundamentals of Marketing, TEAM SBA-Financing RoundTable, Internet Marketing with Web & Social Media. Smith also asked Pelc to lead a seminar on Employee Management and Unemployment. Pelc will look into what content to provide for such a training and report back to the committee.
2. ***Opera House Revitalization:*** The committee reported on who has been contacted so far for the April 10, 10:00am tour of the opera house followed by an 11:00 discussion at Cheeky Monkey. Invitations for attending the April 10 tour and conversation are as follows:
 - Diane: *Michelle V of the Arts Council- confirmed; Terry Frewen as a Realtor-confirmed; Brian Grapentine as a builder-confirmed; Tim Spitzley as an Architect- not confirmed*
 - Patrick: *Historical Society-unconfirmed will represent them; City Manager-confirmed; Mary of Parks and Rec-confirmed*
 - Bernie: *Jerry as owner of half of building- unconfirmed?*

Other Items

1. ***Fly-Over Video:*** The committee discussed the notion again and asked Bill to see when his friend would be available in June during the day to do a fly-over. Smith is to check with the airport in Ionia for ideas as well. The committee identified the need for a steady-cam for the fly-over. Other ideas were to have interviews of store owners and a walk through of the downtown. Reagan suggested that the initiative be written into the work plan with a cost transfer from another item or a proposed amendment to the DDA if additional funds needed.

2. ***Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Tech Visit:*** Reagan invited the committee members to the sections of the visit that pertained to them, with an emphasis on the March 24th, 4:15-5:15pm timeframe at City Hall.

New Business

1. ***Main Street in 3D:*** Smith reported that she, Reagan and the Design Chair are working on submitting an application to be selected a pilot community for the program and the committee expressed their support of that.

Volunteer Hours Reported:

1. Ed: 3 hours
2. Diane: 5 hours
3. Bernie: 1.5 hours
4. Bill: 1.5 hours

Next Two Meetings: April 29, May 27