

**Portland Main Street Economic Revitalization Committee
Minutes**

**July 28, 2011, 8:00AM
Cheeky Monkey's, Portland**

Committee Attendance: Diane Smith, Ed Bishopp, Tara Rodriguez, Bernie Pelc
Committee Absences: Beck Ward
Guests: Lynne Paradiso
Staff: Patrick Reagan

New Business

1. **Recognition:** Tara Rodriguez was recognized for her outstanding contribution to the Main Street program. Thanks Tara!

Old Business

Items In the Work Plan:

1. **Business to Business Program:** Lynne Paradiso, the new President of the Chamber, attended the meeting to discuss a collaborative planning for the program. The group decided to invite local business owners to meet with us to discuss what would be the best goal and structure for such a program. Those mentioned were as follows: Ken or Kim Kramer, Rush or Julie Clement, Kory Blastic, Bernie Pelc, Wanda Urie, Kolp, Kiebler. An email blast will be sent out by Smith to inquire on their interest in being engaged in such a conversation and whether they were available in morning or evening for this conversation. The meeting will be held at the library once a date is set.
2. **Opera House Revitalization Meeting:** Sept 17th was chosen as a date to convene the public for a meeting. Suggested agenda items would be trends ID and how to change business to address such changes, individual networking, business idea survey for the buildings business use in the future. Rodriguez will write and send out a press release. Patrick will invite the Sentinel-Standard paper. The goal of the project is to have a self-supporting operation in the building. Diane and Tara will split the list of those who attended the last meeting and call the list to invite them to the meeting. Patrick reminded the group of the email he sent on resources available for revitalization of such sites.
3. **Market Study Update:** The group discussed the study's identification of the need for a meat/cheese/deli shop and what could be done to recruit a new business. Merindorf Meats and more in Williamston, Muir Market, and Ionia Food Group were mentioned with an emphasis on organic hormone free trend.

Volunteer Hours Reported:

Ed – 2 hrs; Tara – 1 hrs; Bernie – 1 hrs; Becky- 1 hrs; Diane – 2 hrs.