

Pilot Mound & District Chamber of Commerce January 2009 Meeting

The monthly lunch meeting was held on January 21, 2009 at the Homesteader Restaurant with good attendance.

Meeting called to order and the December 2008 minutes were read and adopted.

Reports:

Jack Lovell - EDO - reported on the proposed Assisted Living/Foreign Students Residence. He met with Meyers, Norris Penny in Brandon. A solid financial model is needed and there are many challenges to be faced. He also met with 2 Chinese delegates interested in the residence. This was a relationship building meeting. Jack is trying to sort of the Building Canada / Manitoba infrastructure grants available, but it's a complicated issue. The Chamber expressed support in any way possible.

Roland Desrochers – Athlete sign/ new hotel: reported on the "Great Athletes come from small towns too" sign. Discussion held on how much information the sign requires - how to be informative but not too busy. Hotel - can't put the wiring in as it's too cold. Roland checked with Manitoba Hydro re: Christmas lights and they will give us brighter bulbs for next year.

Fellowship Club: Lois Lynch reported the Rock has renovated an office and cleared out a storage room. Annual General Meeting to be held on January 27, 2009 -1 PM - all members urged to attend as important decisions are to be discussed and voting taking place. Memberships drive to commence soon.

PMMRC: Patrick Sutherland - the complex is mostly completed and a few details to be finished up. A financial business plan is being discussed. A positive report was given on many aspects of the PMMRC and it's coming together.

Town Hall Meeting - Elizabeth Brenner / George Kemp/ Ken Kemp reported on the meeting that was held with Candice Hoepfner, MP to discuss matters concerning the latest developments and the Federal Government. A good number attended from Pilot Mound and surrounding communities with many expressing concerns on several issues.

The Federal / Provincial Building Canada and Infrastructure grants were discussed at length, but would probably not filter down to our local area. The 'shovel ready' grants applications must be submitted by February 23, 2009, which is a very short time to put together such a large application, but making intent known could possibly initiate a project. We hope the Town Hall meetings continue with Candice Hoepfner, MP whenever she is available.

Town of Pilot Mound: Brent Checkley, Mayor - reported on the cost of water plant upgrade, sewer repairs that are most urgent. The town has applied for infrastructure grants.

Chamber Website: Susan reported that it has consistent hits and is very busy. We have very few homes for sale, so does not attract Real Estate inquiries as in the past. Coming Events will list the current events by month, and annual events will be listed separately. To date, the website has had over 177,000 hits from all over the world, but mainly from Canada.

Cook Books: Carolanne - sales of the Reunion 2004 cookbooks are going very well. Phone 825-2432 to order.

Financial Report was presented and adopted.

A donation was approved for the Tivoli Theatre. The Tivoli Cash Calendars are still available.

New Business:

A committee was formed to select the Community Volunteer of the Year award - to be presented at the Pilot Mound & District Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting to be held at a dinner meeting on February 25th at the Homesteader Restaurant. Everyone is welcome to attend - tickets at the door - 6PM. The Chamber 'Year in Review -2008' report will be presented along with local reports. A chance to renew your membership and make a donation to the maintenance of the PM Chamber website.(Watch for Sentinel ad)

A committee was formed to organize the Annual General meeting of the Chamber for 2008.

A committee was formed to hold a 'Meet and Greet' coffee party to be held in early March at the Fellowship Club. Invitations are to be sent to new residents of Pilot Mound, including PVL.

Audrey Wilson reported that a sign should be erected and visible from the highway to advertise our Bed and Breakfasts. At present, travellers have no way of knowing what is available. Discussion followed regarding best location.

Meeting was adjourned.