

## **THE GREATER MADISONVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

November 10, 2009 at the office of Bruce M. Danner  
6:05pm Meeting called to order by Acting President, Michelle Vanderbrook

PRESENT: Michelle Vanderbrook, Roy Hunt, Kelly Blackwell, Chris Hitzman, Tanya Leader, Jerrold Rabalais, Michel Knighten, Iris Vacante, Louise Lovich

ABSENT: John Paul McFadden, Kristian Hahn, Kimberly Hahn, Bruce Danner

Guests were Samantha Goodwin, Skip Rinaldi, Toni Bazer and Beatrice Germaine

Samantha Goodwin of the Public Service Commission requested the opportunity to act as the Chamber's Legislative Liaison. She would represent the Chamber at functions, protect the area's small businesses and be a spokes person for the Chamber.

Skip Rinaldi, owner if Above and Beyond Builders is very interested in becoming a Board Member and volunteering whenever possible. Beatrice Germaine of Speak Easy Too and Toni Bazer of Gallagher Risk Management Services are also interested in becoming Board members.

Iris Vacante reported on the Wooden Boat Festival, that the Chamber participated in with our Crazy Hair Booth. Because the weather was horrible pretty much both days, the Chamber did not make any money after expenses. Iris suggested that maybe we could have the Crazy Hair Booth at the Crusin on the River Vintage Car Show to recoup some of the money.

On the subject of the Krewe of Tchefuncte, there are still three Maids needed and several Pages. Anyone knowing of candidates, please contact Iris.

Michelle Vanderbrook reported that the General Membership Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 12/2 from 6:00pm-8:00pm at Madisonville Town Hall. Instead of the expense of a Restaurant, we will have it catered and charge \$8 or \$10 per person. This will also be our Election Meeting. We will have a slate of nominees and nominations will also be accepted that evening. An official ballot will be drawn up and e-mailed or mailed to members in advance. Two Board Members are stepping down at the end of the year: Roy Hunt, Treasurer and Kelly Blackwell, Board Member. Those staying are Michael Knighten, Tanya Leader, and Jerrold Rabalais as Board Members. Michelle Vanderbrook is seeking the office of President and Louise Lovich the office of Coresponding/Recording Secretary. Open positions will be Vice President, Treasurer and several Board Member positions. Those interested in the Board of Directors are Toni Bazer, Beatrice Germaine, Skip Rinaldi, Samantha Goodwin and Chris Hitzman. A list was handed out of attendance records of Board Members for the last ten months. According to the By-Laws, if a Board Member misses three consecutive meetings, he must resign from the Board. Since the resignation of our past President and for some time before, the Board Meetings weren't taken seriously. We hope to get back on track after our election.

Michael Knighten, Jerrold Rabalais and others met to discuss Bill Prudhomme's web site proposal and it was accepted. With Bill's help, we will now have the capability to update our data base of members, create a monthly newsletter, send out billing at the first of the year, set up a pay pale account and many more functions. Samantha Goodwin has volunteered to update the membership list once again and have it available to send out the notices of the General Membership Meeting and get the 2010 billing out in January.

Merry Madisonville Weekend is fast approaching. The Christmas Parade is scheduled for Saturday, 12/5, starting at 5:00pm. Participating in the parade will be the St Paul Band and Dance Team, Fire Station, Vintage cars and convertibles carrying last years King and Queen of Krewe of Tchefuncte and Maids,

Santa and Ms. Clause and members of the Town Council. Ponchatoula High School Choir will lead the caroling at the end of the parade in front of Town Hall, followed by the lighting of the big tree in front of Town Hall as well as the trees along the river. The town has volunteered to put wiring to accommodate spot lights either in the trees or on the ground beneath the trees. Some suggestions were to ask businesses to decorate their store windows or a tree and have a contest, but it was decided due to lack of time, to hold off on this idea until next year.

Louise Lovich handed out Merry Madisonville Weekend flyers as well as Santa on the River flyers that will be on Sunday, 12/6 from 2:00pm-4:00pm. Any help with both these events will be greatly appreciated.

Roy Hunt did not have a Treasurers report, but has completed the Tax report and given a copy to both Michelle and Bob LaPorte.

Tanya Leader reported that the Dragon Boat Races will be here on April 17, 2010. The committee is looking for teams. It is hoped that there will be 22 teams and between 1,000 and 1,500 spectators. Mike Cambre is the event coordinator. The Chamber will have a tent, will sell ad space on T-shirts, help with parking, prepare welcome bags and sell \$10 meal vouchers to local Restaurants. Part of the river will be blocked off to local boat traffic during the races. We may want to think about creating a local commemorative poster of the event.

Plans are under way for a Fishing Rodeo next year thru the IFA Redfish Tour. Logistics and time of year will be e-mailed to Louise to contact T Rivers as a possible weigh in location for the tournament.

Next meeting will be the General Membership Meeting, Wednesday, 12/2 from 6:00-8:00pm at Town Hall.

No further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Louise Lovich,  
Recording Secretary