

HILLSDALE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
C/O HILLSDALE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
P.O. Box 276
HILLSDALE, MI 49242

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 3rd, 2010

Members present: P. Martin, C. Bieszk, M. Miller, T. Vear, K. Newell, C. Russell, P. Wingate, L. Johanns, P. Ringenberg, M. Elchert, J. Taylor, K. LoPresto, J. Bearman, J. Beagle, P. Trevathan

Guests present: Sue Smith, Business Solutions Manager, SCMW!

Meeting was called to order by Pres. Newell at 7:50am.

Agenda was accepted as presented, with the addition of "Loss Prevention" added under New Business.

Approval of January 6th, 2010 Minutes:

K. LoPresto motioned and C. Russell supported accepting the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The January Financial Report was presented and accepted by the members present. New Member Applications – Nash Drugs, G&G Glass, MSU Extension-Hillsdale County, Anytime Fitness, H&R Block, Mulberry Lane Hillsdale, Community Action Agency, and Colin A. Mayers, DDS, were submitted for membership and approved by voice vote.

Public Comment

Sue Smith of SCMW! introduced herself and offered her assistance to the HBA membership. The Business Solutions Team offers an array of services to businesses. Sue can be contacted at ssmith@scmw.org, or at 437-3928. Sue congratulated the HBA membership on its successful community.

The City of Hillsdale Economic Development Director was not present and no report was given.

Committee Updates

Christmas Festival – Chairs both reported the success of the event and promised more for the upcoming year.
Cruise-In – Currently gathering sponsors; asked for giveaways to include in driver's goodie bags. Hillsdale BPU will be showing its outdoor movie during the event.
Sidewalk Sales – Planning will begin soon. Contact Patti Bailey to participate and/or volunteer.
Street Fair – Planning is in full swing. The event will run from 10am to 10pm with activities throughout the downtown area. Volunteers are still needed.
Harvest Fest – Will work again with the Community Foundation and area schools.

New Business

HBA Website:

Per Jill Taylor, the Hillsdale High School Business Professionals Association has offered to assist with the development of an HBA Website. They suggested purchasing a domain name through GoDaddy.com. P. Martin asked for an estimate of the costs associated with a website and Jill said she would follow-up with numbers.

Loss Prevention:

K. Newell issued a warning that shoplifting seems to be on the rise and encouraged all store owners to work together to alert one another of suspicious individuals and/or behaviors. A suggestion was made to contact law enforcement about conducting a Loss Prevention workshop for business owners. P. Martin will follow up with the Sheriff's Department.

Old Business

2010 Goals and Objectives:

Members agreed to pursue some type of legal status for the HBA. C. Bieszk will follow up with Steve Vear, as he offered to provide information on options. The Executive Committee will present its recommendation at the March meeting.

The following items were tabled, pending the resolution of the legal status issue:

- 2010 Budget
- 2010 Membership Drive
- Window Clings
- HBA Thank You Ad
- Event Committee update

Business/Member Updates

- An informational flyer on Census jobs was distributed.
- Trevathan's store is open, with some areas of the interior effected by the fire still undergoing renovation.
- Key Opportunities announced the Open House for its "In the Key" consignment shop, February 17th and encouraged everyone to attend.
- The Hillsdale County Senior Services Center is taking last minute orders for its Super Bowl Sunday Sub Sale. They are also hosting their annual "Spa Sunday" on March 7th for women only, and featuring many local businesses. Raffle tickets are available for purchase.
- Jill Taylor suggested the HBA consider coordinating a series of informational workshops for business owners such as: Customer Service with Connie Bills, ID Theft with Michelle Graber, etc. This idea will be explored further with the City of Hillsdale's Economic Development Director.
- Penny Wingate announced its first Wine Tasting/Food Pairing event on February 3rd from 4pm-6pm. They have a new chef and will be offering cooking/food prep classes as well as introducing several new food bars in the store. They have also installed a Community Bulletin Board where virtually anyone can post information for the good of the community.

Meeting adjourned at 9am.

Next meeting, Wednesday, March 3rd, 7:45am at the Hillsdale Community Library.

Respectfully submitted: Patrice Martin