

PDBA Gen Membership Meeting.

Minutes. Jan. 15, 2014

Meeting started and led by Phil Wojtowicz at 5:35 PM. Board members in attendance: Kyle Westberg, Glen Konopaskie, Bob Waun, Kathie Henk, Tom Raymond and Phil Wojtowicz. Absent Robert Karazim

Blair McGowen moved to accept the agenda, second by Rick David.

Guest, Kim Wehner, from the Palace of Auburn Hills, explained a new offering called “Retail Appreciation Nights”. She handed out a flyer and Glen has it posted on our PDBA website.

Guest, Kristen Wiltfang, from Oakland County, brought a sample of the Historic Wayside Markers and a map showing their placement in our greater Pontiac Downtown and surrounding locations. Glen commented that our goal is to have 24 of them in place when the National Mainstreet Conference is held in Detroit and a visit to Pontiac is planned mid-May 2014. Costs is \$400 to members, \$500 to nonmember but then a membership is given for one year. Signs with installation are \$1,200 but the Motorcities National Heritage Project and grant money from the National Park Service will cover the rest of the costs.

Amir Diaz made a motion to hire a part time PDBA Executive Director. The motion reads: “The PDBA hereby authorizes its officers to consider hiring an employee. The Officers shall identify what work could be done by this employee, and develop appropriate job descriptions. The officers would consider realistic funding sources, create budgets, and solicit possible candidates for the position. The officers would interview and receive applications. The officers shall report back with their recommendations to the member ship for its approval.”

Motion seconded by Bo Young.

Discussion on Amir’s motion: Kyle Westberg stated that \$17,000 was raised by the July “City Lights” promotion with monies dedicated to pay a salary for an executive director. Glen Konopaskie said our PDBA Organization committee will establish a subcommittee composed of the PDBA president, an Oakland County representative and several other PDBA members. The goal is to have someone in place by April 1, 2014. Please let Tom Raymond know if you would like to serve on this subcommittee. A call for the vote was made and it was passed unanimously.

The PDBA Bylaws are nearing completion. The final editing process is being done. The next meeting is on Tuesday, at 4PM on January 21 at Future Help Design office in the Waterman building. Tom Raymond, chairman of the Organization Committee will lead this meeting’s discussion.

Parking Committee chaired by Bob Waun has two companies who have responded with proposals to operate metered and private lot parking in our downtown. SP Parking and Miller Parking are the two submissions. The PDBA committee is now looking at the proposals and plans to have a recommendation to the membership by the February meeting.

Discussion ensued to see if the parking contract will address snow removal. Bob Waun said if enough monies are generated it may be possible but no guarantee at this point in time. A week after the storm finds city streets still snow filled and dangerous.

The Polar Vortex Storm that dumped 11 inches of snow on 3 inches already on ground caused total havoc on Pontiac city streets. Mayor Diedre Waterman spoke to this emergency. She rode in a city truck in the storm and understands the frustration of Pontiac businesses and citizens. Money is the issue. Though we have 6 city trucks, only 2 drivers and trucks were affordable. There are no discretionary monies allotted in the budget. Terrance King and the Mayor are bound by the contract left by the Emergency Financial Manager. It states that the city contract company will respond to clearing streets when 6 inches of snow has fallen. Sidewalk snow clearance is the responsibility of the property owners.

Mayor Waterman explained she has created Transition Board Committees with volunteers from the community and asked them to develop action plans on the following:

1. Workforce Development
2. Economic Development
3. Youth-Young Adult Activities
4. Senior Services
5. Coordination of nonprofit services
6. Empower/Activate CDC's and neighborhood associations
7. Public/Private Partnerships
8. Get out the vote
9. Rebranding Pontiac

Tom Raymond gave a security report and once again crime is down in our downtown according to Sheriff Atkins.

Christian Marcillo gave the Promotions Committee report: The committee meets every Tuesday, from 5:15 to 6:30 PM at Electricity. The committee logged in 900 volunteer hours, raised \$10,000 which was used for events in our downtown, four of them in December: Dec. 6, Tree Lighting, Dec. 6, Caroling, Dec. 7, Holiday Extravaganza Parade partnership, and Dec. 18, PDBA Awards Recognition Event.

Our email grew from 200 members to 315 members. We grew Facebook from 32 hits to over 1000 . Anyone can access us at: www.pontiacdba.com

Announcements:

We need volunteers for a Dream Cruise PDBA Promotions Subcommittee. The first meeting will be at 11:00 AM at Downtown 51 Grille on Wednesday, January 22. Christian will conduct this first meeting but will look to a volunteer to assume chairmanship of this subcommittee.

Owner, Yolanda Walker, said Antoinette's Urban Chic is in its fourth year and on Saturday, January 18, 2014, she will host an open-house and special sales. Burt Johnson will speak at 11:30am. He is running for the position presently held by Gary Peters. Everyone is welcome for this event.

Pontiac Business Conference is scheduled for Wednesday, January 29, 2014, at Baker College from 7:30 to 10 AM. Information will be posted on our PDBA website.

Tim Travis said his business Goldner Walsh is celebrating 61 continuous years in business at 559 Orchard Lake Rd. He has been working with Tom Raymond and SCORE and has added three venues of business to his establishment.

1. Telly's Greenhouse from Troy, MI will operate a satellite at Goldner Walsh
2. Stone Mason will offer services at Goldner Walsh
3. Sunday Farmers Market with 30 vendors will be started at Goldner Walsh

7:35 PM meeting adjourned

Minutes taken and submitted by Maureen Young