

TUXEDO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Town Hall Community Room

April 27, 2005

MINUTES

In Attendance:

Members:

Keld Alstrup, Alstrup Associates International
Dale Mottola, Applied Systems Group
Scott Lesko, Augusta Properties
Kerriann Cavada, Color Schemes Painting
Gregory Stevens, Gregory Stevens Financial Services
Jerry Mottola, Jerico/U.S.P.S.
Hao Li Ee, Path Computer Systems
Jim Gell, Sterling Forest State Park
Greg Duffy, Sterling Portfolio Management
Vera Johnson, Tuxedo Antique Center
Robert Thompson, Tuxedo Park Preferred Properties
Jim Burger, Tuxedo Park School
Andy Berish, Tuxedo Silver Dollars
Diane Petrosky, Tuxedo Union Free School District
Aubrey deBordenave, WJB Villas Corp.

Others Present:

Gina Marie Miele, Recording Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Tuxedo Chamber of Commerce was called to order at 5:40 PM on Wednesday, April 27, 2005, by Scott Lesko, President.

The minutes of the March 23, 2005 meeting were read by Ms. Mottola; Mr. Lesko made a motion to approve the Minutes. Mr. Newell seconded the motion; it was approved with 14 ayes and 1 nay.

FINANCIAL AND MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: Ms. Mottola reported that there are 49 Chamber members, with 37 paid to date. She asked that all members pay their dues for 2005 by the end of May.

COMMUNITY SURVEY: Mr. Duffy showed additional data from the Community Survey, initially shown to the Chamber in a Powerpoint presentation at the February 23rd meeting. When asked what 'new businesses' respondents would like to see in Tuxedo, the #1 answer was a grocery store, followed by bakery, farmers market, restaurant, butcher shop, fish store and coffee shop. Mr. Duffy offered that the Chamber should take the helm and provide strong leadership to the Town by implementing some significant changes by presenting not just the Survey data – but a vision for Town-wide improvements.

Mr. Lesko asked for further comments on what the next steps should be. Discussion ensued, including how the Chamber can be more effective in promoting new businesses, assisting the existing businesses, and how the Survey Results can best be presented to the Town and School Boards. The Chamber will continue to work toward scheduling a workshop or workshops to present survey findings. It was agreed that the Chamber has definite influence and can use it to support development, stimulate a dialog, and steer the future toward growth by being vocal and involved.

UPDATE ON UTILITY POLE BANNERS: Mr. Lesko reported that Chamber representatives appeared again before the Tuxedo Architectural Review Board, and the Board was now concerned that the banners were “too small.” The ARB granted permission to allow a total of twelve (12) banners to be on display only from May through October, and rejected the idea of the second set of banners to be displayed during the holidays. This will allow for ten (10) ‘Farmers Market’ banners and two (2) ‘Welcome to Tuxedo’ banners. Mr. Lesko noted that this was a milestone accomplishment for the Chamber. This was followed by a discussion regarding the sponsorship plaques which will hang from the bottom of the banners. Now that the total number of banners has been reduced, there will only be 24 spots (two per banner) available for sponsors’ advertising. Additionally, there was discussion regarding where the banners are to be placed (from Southfields through the hamlet), and some concern about the time frame to get the banners produced and put up. Since the ARB thought that the banners should be larger, it was suggested that the Chamber investigate the cost of increasing the size of the banners (which would mean writing off the two prototypes at a loss of \$280). An increase in size would require returning to the ARB for approval.

Mr. Lesko made a motion to purchase all new banners, and due to time constraints allow the Board to make the final decision as to design and cost. Ms. Mottola seconded the motion.

Adopted: Ayes: (13) Nays: (1) Abstain: (1)

UPDATE ON TUXEDO FARMERS MARKET: Mr. Lesko stated there have been some comments within the Chamber Membership with regard to the Farmers Market approvals and policies, and asked for comments. Mr. Berish, who has attended a couple of ‘Market Committee’ meetings, thought that the overall attitude of the Committee was that they preferred the Chamber no longer be involved with the Market. Discussion ensued. Ms. deBordenave and Ms. Cavada, both also members of the Market Committee, felt that some individual comments were taken out of context. Mr. Mottola expressed his opposition to the Market, and asked about the cost for Highway and Police department support. Mr. Stevens acknowledged some persistent confusion and asked that the Chamber request clarification regarding whether the Chamber needs to obtain workers’ compensation insurance to cover the market manager. Mr. Lesko indicated that the Farmers Market Committee is intended to operate as a de facto “Chamber Sub-Committee.” He provided copies of the “Tuxedo Farmers Market Guidelines” for Chamber members to review and submit comments. He expressed his hope that, after being successfully launched this year by the Chamber, next year the Farmers Market Committee may choose to become an independent entity.

Mr. Lesko made a motion to pursue and support the Tuxedo Farmers Market and allow the Market Sub-Committee to continue its work, and Mr. Duffy seconded the motion.

Adopted: Ayes: (12) Nays: (2) Abstain: (1)

Mr. Lesko made a motion to provide a one time financial appropriation of \$500 to the Tuxedo Farmers Market Sub-Committee, and Mr. Duffy seconded the motion.

Adopted: Ayes: (12) Nays: (2) Abstain: (1)

OTHER BUSINESS:

A letter requesting a donation to *The 9/11 Scholarship Fund* was presented. After a brief discussion regarding financial support by the Tuxedo Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Lesko made a motion to provide a one time financial appropriation of \$500 to *The 9/11 Scholarship Fund*, and Mr. Stevens seconded the motion.

Adopted: Ayes: (14) Abstain: (1)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.