

# **TUXEDO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

## **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

January 25, 2006

### **MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

Dale Mottola, Applied Systems Group  
Jerry Mottola, Jerico/USPS  
Hao Li Ee, Path Computer Systems  
Greg Stevens, Gregory G. Stevens. Inc.  
Vera Johnson, Tuxedo Antique Center  
Scott Lesko, Augusta Properties, Inc.  
Craig Newell, Path Computer Systems  
Jim Burger, Tuxedo Park School  
Greg Duffy, Sterling Portfolio Management  
Kieran Murray, Allstate  
Robert Thompson, Tuxedo Park Preferred Properties  
Andy Berish, Tuxedo Silver Dollars  
Aubrey deBordenave, WJB Villa Corp.  
Betty Ann Eberling, Take A Break  
Charles Toal, Esq.  
Robert Guggisburg, Tuxedo Manor Apartments  
Anthony Iazetti, A1 Landscaping & Excavating  
Katherine Norris, Tuxedo Park Estates  
Samuel Leghorn, Sam's Lawn Service

**Others Present:**

Deborah Villanueva, Recording Secretary  
Peter Kourakos, The Red Apple Rest

**Call to Order:**

Dale Mottola, President, called the regular monthly meeting of the Tuxedo Chamber of Commerce to order at 5:35 PM on Wednesday, January 25, 2006 in the Community Room of the Tuxedo Town Hall.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The Minutes from the November meeting were reviewed and there were some corrections requested on page 3. Mr. Mottola made a motion to approve the November Minutes as corrected and it was approved by a unanimous vote.

The Minutes from the December meeting were reviewed and approved by a unanimous vote.

**Financial Update:**

Mr. Stevens provided a financial recap of 2005 noting a total income from fundraisers and Member advertising of \$6,895.00. He stated that expenses totaled \$7,294.14 for a net income of (\$399.14). Mr. Stevens also reported that there is currently \$4,784.06 in the treasury.

**Report on 2005 Farmers' Market:**

Mrs. Mottola noted that the report on the 2005 Farmers' Market would be postponed until February's meeting.

**Group Health Insurance:**

Greg Duffy brought to the attention of the chamber that Group Health Insurance might be available to members, and that he would arrange for a presentation by an insurance representative. The members present at the meeting were polled; there was insufficient interest to pursue it further.

**Proposed Sign Ordinance:**

Mrs. Mottola stated that there is a new proposed sign code before the Town Board for approval and asked the members if they had an opportunity to review the proposed code and to provide feedback.

Several Members voiced a concern over how strict the proposed code is and noted that it does not allow for each business' individuality. There was also a general feeling that the ARB has not been flexible and it was noted that several area businesses have been before the Board and were forced to agree to a sign that they either did not like or was not affordable to them.

There was also a strong opinion that the word 'aesthetics' should not be used in the guidelines and/or code, as aesthetics is more a matter of opinion.

Mr. Lesko added that signs alone will not make a difference in the appearance of the downtown area noting that there should be a larger effort in place including fixing the curbs and adding trees.

There was also a concern voiced over some of the recently approved signs whereby they have been approved based upon the proposed code and not the currently enforced code.

Mrs. Mottola suggested sending a letter to the Town Board requesting that the approval of the proposed signage code be tabled for a few months while the Chamber has an opportunity to review the proposed code. She further added that another effective approach would be to create a committee to consult with various sign manufacturers on

materials and pricing as well as a design for the corridor. She explained that this would provide a great opportunity for new businesses in need of a sign as well as existing businesses that want to update their sign, possibly allowing them to benefit from group pricing. Mrs. Mottola added that perhaps grant money could be made available to assist with the expense of developing the sign design for the corridor.

Mrs. Mottola made a motion to send a letter to the Town Board requesting that the approval of the proposed code be postponed until the Chamber of Commerce has an opportunity to thoroughly review and comment on the proposed code. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Mrs. Mottola asked for volunteers for a “sign committee” and Betty Ann Eberling, Andy Berish and Mrs. Mottola all volunteered. It was decided that the Committee would work together and present to the Chamber prior to presenting to the Town Board.

**Other Business:**

Mr. Berish brought up the topic of the train station asking if the Chamber could offer some suggestions for a proposed use of the building.

Mrs. Motolla stated that the Town Supervisor – Peter Dolan had suggested spending some money to bring the building to a habitable condition and allow such groups as the seniors, Scouts, the Chamber of Commerce to utilize it.

Mrs. Eberling said that a number of years ago there was grant available through the Orange County Department of Tourism to update the building and make it a visiting center providing information on local area businesses and events.

Mrs. Motolla stated that the Orange County Department of Tourism should be contacted to see if they are still willing to provide the grant. It was noted that Mrs. Eberling would attempt to contact them.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM.