

TUXEDO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

November 16, 2005

MINUTES

Members Present: Dale Mottola, Applied Systems Group
Scott Lesko, Augusta Properties
Greg Stevens, Gregory G. Stevens, Inc.
Jerry Mottola, Jerico/USPS-Tuxedo
Bill McMullen, McMullen's Tavern
Hao Li Ee/Craig Newell, Path Computer Systems
Jim Gell, Sterling Forest State Park
Greg Duffy, Sterling Portfolio Management
Robert Thompson, Tuxedo Park Preferred Properties
Jim Burger, Tuxedo Park School
Andy Berish, Tuxedo Silver Dollars
Aubrey deBordenave, WJB Villa Corp.

Others Present: Deborah Villanueva, Recording Secretary
Betty Ann Eberling, Take A Break

Call to Order:

Scott Lesko, President, called the regular monthly meeting of the Tuxedo Chamber of Commerce to order at 5:35 PM on Wednesday, November 16, 2005 in the Community Room of the Tuxedo Town Hall.

Approval of Minutes:

The Minutes from the September meeting were reviewed and approved by a unanimous vote. The Minutes from the October meeting were also reviewed and approved by a unanimous vote.

Financial Update:

Mr. Stevens reported that there is currently \$4,643.46 in the treasury.

Wrap up on Tuxedo Family Fun Day:

Mr. Stevens reported that there was a profit of \$453.38 from Family Fun Day.

Mr. Lesko added that he wanted to give a special thank you to Sterling Forest State Park for their donation of the Birds of Prey exhibit. The exhibit included life size models of local birds as well as live birds and was thoroughly enjoyed by the kids.

Update on Holiday Wreaths in Town/Chamber Donation:

Mr. Lesko reminded everyone that last month a motion was approved to purchase 40 wreaths in support of the Tuxedo School Chorus. He noted that he is unsure when they will be hung but stated that in the past, the Highway Department has been very helpful with assisting in hanging the wreaths.

Ms. Mottola suggested that if the banners are still up that the wreaths be hung just below the banners, if possible.

It was also noted that last year's wreaths were rather small and not very attractive and it was questioned as to whether or not they could be made larger and to look more festive. Ms. Mottola noted that she would contact Ms. Petrosky to see if it is possible to ask for a Christmas red ribbon.

Mr. Duffy pointed out that perhaps next year the wreaths could be purchased locally by Hickory Hollow Nursery with a request for their support.

2006 Chamber Board Nominations:

Mr. Newell presented a slate of nominations for 2006 Board of Directors that had been collected by the Nominations Committee, as follows:

President: Dale Mottola

Vice President: Jerry Mottola

Treasurer: Greg Stevens

Secretary: Hao Li Ee

Trustees: Jim Burger, Greg Duffy, Bob Thompson

Mr. Newell stated that nominations would be accepted up until noon on December 5th with the opportunity to write in a vote provided for on the ballot distributed on the day of the elections. He added that there are currently nominations for all offices except for the Committee Coordinator, which is required by the bylaws, however has never been filled.

It was noted that both Mr. Lesko and Mr. McMullen would not be running for the positions of President and Vice President, leaving two vacant seats. It was also noted that the addition of the two Trustee positions was very beneficial and the suggestion was made to add a third Trustee position.

Ms. Mottola stated that the bylaws call for 5 positions, 4 Officers and a Committee Coordinator.

After some discussion about the role of the Committee Coordinator, Robert Thompson agreed to enter his name for the position.

Mr. Lesko indicated that there is a need for several Committees including a Bylaws Committee, Membership Committee and an Advertising/PR Committee.

2006 Chamber Activities/Goals:

Membership Drive –

There was a discussion regarding member participation and it was noted that although all members are not always in attendance for the meetings, they are still in fact members. Some members felt that perhaps the time of the meeting may have an impact on how many people are present. Miss deBordenave pointed out that she recalled when the meetings were held at 7:30 there was greater participation.

Mr. Duffy indicated that if someone were to visit the business community to ask what they would like to see the Chamber get involved in that perhaps it would help to increase participation.

Farmers Market -

Mr. Lesko discussed the Farmers Market and stated that he strongly believes that the Chamber should stay involved with the market rather than handing it off to the residents. Ms. Mottola noted that if it does continue to be a Chamber sponsored event then there should always be a representative present at the Chamber table. It was also noted that perhaps the vendors could become members of the Chamber as they have a definite business interest in the community.

Mr. Lesko commented that the Farmers Market relied heavily on the population of Tuxedo for its success and it was suggested that a unique marketing/advertising program be brought into the mix to draw visitors from outside the Tuxedo area.

Mr. Duffy questioned the overall outcome of the market asking if there would be a summation of how well the vendors did as well as what they liked and disliked about the market. Mr. Lesko stated that the Market Committee would be supplying a final budget. He also indicated that there was going to be a recap dinner at the end of 2005 however due to scheduling it will probably be pushed out until the early part of 2006.

Winter Family Fun Day –

Mr. Lesko explained that the Winter Family Fun Day would not be an option because the ski center has ceased operations. Also the event has not been well attended.. He asked for suggestions on other activities that might be of interest to the community and the following suggestions were made: Adult golf outing, a community game (Tuxopoly), a tricky tray type event to include different gifts donated by local businesses, a charity benefit ball where money raised could go to the various charities that the Chamber sponsors, and a community hike/picnic through Sterling Forest.

Update on Mixer –

Mr. Lesko confirmed that the Mixer would be held at McMullen's Tavern on December 7th between 6 – 9PM. He stated that the charge is \$25.00 for members and their guests and \$30.00 for non-members. Mr. Lesko added that the only order of business for the evening would be to complete the elections.

Update on Possible Chamber Position on LDC –

Mr. Lesko discussed the possible Chamber position on the LDC and stated that there had been comments that it might create a conflict of interest. After some research, the Attorney confirmed that it would be legally and ethically possible. The only possible issue would be if there were a vote that directly affected the person in the position they would have to abstain from that particular vote.

Other Business:

Betty Ann Eberling appeared as a representative of the Tuxedo Ambulance Corp. She discussed the current situation stating that they are in dire need of trained drivers. She explained that in order to qualify as a driver individuals must take a 4-hour CPR and defibrillation certification class and then ride with a driver to learn how to operate the vehicle. She stated that the class is \$40.00 and would be reimbursed to those people who sign on as drivers. She also noted that they will be selling The Gift of Life cards for \$40.00 which would entitle the recipient to the training class and noted that it would be a nice holiday gift for someone interested in learning CPR.

Mrs. Eberling continued by explaining another important program called the Magnet of Life. She stated that the magnets are being sold for their cost of \$1.50 and can be filled out to include important health information for the individual holding the magnet. She is hoping to get the word out to anyone interested in purchasing a magnet.

A discussion ensued and there were some suggestions about the Chamber possibly purchasing some of the magnets or donating money to assist in the training of drivers. It was noted that they were not specifically asking for donations and Mr. McMullen made a motion to table this item until more information could be obtained. Mr. Duffy seconded the motion and it was approved by a unanimous vote.

Open Conversation:

Mr. Lesko explained that although they were hoping to get ARB approval for year round seasonal banners, they were only granted approval for the duration of the Farmers Market. He noted that they were told to return to the ARB for approval on a new banner for the holiday season.

Ms. Mottola explained that she has been working with the vendor on a sample design that they are hoping to keep up through March however the design was geared more towards the Christmas season as opposed to the winter months. She stated that she will continue to work with the Vendor and coordinate with the ARB to ask for an extension on removing the farmers market banners and for permission to hang the winter banners.

Mr. Berish presented the members with a copy of a news article regarding SOS Fuels explaining that they have received a National Recognition Award for the 4th year in a row. He suggested that the Chamber send them a letter of congratulations and thank them for their continued support.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.