

**West Grey Chamber of Commerce
Executive Meeting Minutes
Pebbles Restaurant
April 12, 2016
5:30 p.m.**

Attending: Nella Monaco-Wells, Lois Harris, Ruth Oowler, Rob Thompson, Stephanie Crilly, Brenda Newton (later on).

Nella called the meeting to order. Motion to accept the agenda by Rob, seconded by Lois. Carried.

Acceptance of the January 6, 2015 minutes was moved by Rob, seconded by Lois. Carried.

Business arising from last meeting:

- Rob said that he hadn't received word from Ayton arena about how much it will cost for the Chamber putting up a sign, but he expects the price to be the same as the Durham arena. He reiterated that Cheryl had sent out the needs for the signs. Ruth suggested that the motto should be included with the logo on the sign. We will go for \$250 rental for each of the two arenas. Cheryl had provided an email saying that she had contacted Sign-up Signs and was waiting for an estimate on the cost of making the sign.
- Nella talked about nominations for the board members. She had asked the membership if anyone wanted to volunteer, and no one had indicated their wishes by the deadline. Carol Dyck has been nominated by the Neustadt business community to join the West Grey board as a director. She will begin after the AGM on May 2nd.
- Lois suggested that we send out a reminder to the membership about the AGM on May 2nd. Nella said that she would e-mail again, and suggested that someone do some calling. Stephanie and Lois volunteered to make calls. Lois volunteered to call the Top End to find out how much lead time they would need for a head count before May 2nd.
- Rob confirmed that Mayor Eccles would be M.C. for the AGM, and that Bryan Plumstead would be guest speaker.
- Ruth asked about having non-members attend the AGM. Nella said that this was tried last year, but no non-members showed up. Ruth suggested that we should try again.
- Stephanie suggested that we should have an awards program for outstanding businesses. The board tabled the discussion for after the current AGM. Nella said at the next full chamber meeting, we can start working on it.
- A discussion ensued regarding thank-you gifts for the Mayor and the speaker. Decision to be made before the AGM.

- Lois volunteered to obtain a guestbook and Stephanie to buy a floral arrangement for the AGM.
- The board had a discussion regarding getting a map/directory of the restaurants and other businesses of West Grey. Stephanie suggested a tearaway product. Nella suggested it would be good to have it ready for the Warrior Weekend. Topic was tabled until after the AGM is over.

Nella delivered the Treasurer's Report.

Nella delivered the membership renewal report. Most members have renewed with the Chamber.

Nella delivered the website update: 1,356 hits, 77 per cent new visitors. More than half of visitors are women.

Ruth suggested that we need more promotion of the member businesses on the website. Nella agreed to put a banner on the events page listing all the businesses.

Stephanie and Ruth suggested that we need to increase our efforts to attract more Chamber members. The board agreed to draft an inventory of what services and events the Chamber already provides, and draft a plan for what we can do further to retain and attract members, possibly hold a meeting for the general membership to obtain feedback, and then execute the plan. This will be taken up at the next meeting.

Rob reported that the library will be moving into the former Swan Bath and Kitchen Centre building. He also said that the former Gloria's Restaurant has re-opened under new management.

Lois reported that she had sent in paperwork to Industry Canada to keep our Chamber in good standing.

Nella said that another networking social will be held at the end of May at the Garafraxa Cafe.

The next meeting after the AGM will be on June 7, 2016 at Pebbles at 5:30 p.m.

Stephanie moved to adjourn the meeting and Rob seconded. Motion carried.

