



Dirk Norris, President; Warren Malkerson, Vice President

Donna Harkey, Treasurer; Cindy Thompson, Recording Secretary

Gail Major, Correspondence Secretary and Visitor Center Coordinator

Minutes

General Membership Meeting April 8, 2008

Officers Present: Dirk Norris, Presiding; Donna Harkey; Cindy Thompson

Members Present: The Honorable Mayor Bob Hemphill, Fran Altieri, James Guevara, Lucy Rickman, Judy Fitzpatrick, Jamie Gieb, Dennis Dunnum, Scott O'Brien, Welda Grider.

Guests: Walter Hill (Carrizozo Fire Chief), Leon Ivie (Sales Manager/Valle del Sol).

Call to Order: The Regular Meeting of the Carrizozo Chamber of Commerce was held at the Four Winds Restaurant. The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. by the President.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and New Mexico Pledge, guests were introduced.

Minutes of March 11, 2008. The recording secretary announced that a correction to the Minutes should be made. In the item of New Business: it was written that *Carrizozo Works* would be accepted as an "Honorary Member." The bylaws do not define this type of membership, so the motion should have read: Accept Carrizozo Works as a Member, waiving the membership fee.

Motion: Motion made by Fran Altieri, second by Judy Fitzpatrick to accept the Minutes as corrected.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Discussion: *Carrizozo Works* does not have operating funds at this time, but it is hoped that the group will join as a full business membership in 2009.

Change the Agenda: President Norris requested a change to the agenda to move the Events Committee report immediately following the Guest Speaker, to allow Fire Chief Walter Hill to make a presentation. Further request was made to have the Bylaws discussion and vote follow the Events Committee.

Speaker: Leon Ivie, the Sales Manager for Valle del Sol gave an informative presentation about the progress at Valle del Sol. He reported that 100 lots in Phase I are sold, and 35 percent of lots in Phase II are sold. There is a special mailer scheduled to go out for Summer/Fall promotion of the development which will bring more visitors to Carrizozo. The area reserved for manufactured homes should be filling up in approximately 12 months with 250 spaces reserved for 55 and older residents. Mr. Ivie commented that there will be two clubhouses built, one for the RV area will be completely separate from the manufactured homes area. The manufactured homes will be Santa Fe and Southwestern or Pueblo style. CAVCO Homes will be setting up five new homes in approximately eight weeks. There are plans for three site-built homes, a grocery store, and pharmacy in 15 to 18 months. In the next time phase a "quick lube" and hardware/lumber store are planned. He announced that apartment buildings are being planned, to be built in pods of 12. There is anticipation that service employees for Ruidoso will need this type of housing and that the population of the area will gradually include more young people with families.

Events Committee: Fran Altieri reported that she is working with Dan Dattola and Leon Ivie on plans for the location of the July 4th festivities. Due to damage done to the renovated golf course and greens, Mr. Dattola is not in favor of having a large group of people on the grounds as has been done in the past. The committee is making plans to hold the July 4th events on the north side of Hwy 380 in the area of the Valle del Sol pavilion. Fran is working on ideas for family and children-oriented daytime activities to coincide with the July 4th evening fireworks. She urged the Chamber members to consider another fund raising activity besides selling hamburgers or meal items because the 10th Hole Snack Bar at the golf clubhouse will be open that day. Fire Chief Walter Hill informed the group that the Fire Dept. usually raises \$3,500 and they are short of their goal by \$2000 right now. The firefighters are planning a fund raiser by selling brisket dinners at the Zia Center. Leon Ivie offered a \$1000 donation from Valle del Sol toward the Carrizozo Fireworks Fund. Chief Hill said he welcomes ideas for the clean-up after the fireworks; in past year years prisoners were pressed into service for the clean up. In his closing remarks, Chief Hill offered the hope that the Chamber and the Fire Department could work together as this would make our community stronger.

Mayor Bob Hemphill commented that he will also be meeting with Dan Dattola about where the July 4th fireworks will be held. He is also working on getting the speed limit changed in the area that goes by the golf course and the entrance to Valle del Sol.

In further business for the Events Committee, Fran announced that she will be communicating with the Street Fair Committee about their desire to turn over the annual event to the Chamber. She will have a comprehensive report on this at the next meeting.

Bylaws Committee: Welda Grider reported that no corrections or suggestions had been presented to her since the last meeting. She was surprised that printed bylaws were not provided to members present at the meeting. Comment was offered that copies were handed out at the last meeting and mailed or hand delivered to members in good standing in the time following the last general membership meeting. Welda offered to go over the bylaws line by line. There being no request from the members to further review the bylaws, the President called for a motion on the new bylaws.

Motion: Motion was made by Welda Grider, second by Judy Fitzpatrick that the new bylaws be accepted as presented at the last meeting, and were mailed or hand-delivered to members not present at the last meeting. The President requested a vote by a show of raised hands. There being no dissenting votes, the motion passed.

Discussion: In the new Bylaws it is stipulated that a bond for the Treasurer should be purchased as a decision made by the Board of Directors. Also instructed in the new Bylaws, the President will appoint an Audit Committee to go over the financial records of the Chamber in a timely manner at the end of the fiscal year and make a report to the members.

Treasurer's Report: Donna Harkey provided a written report to all members present. Checking account balance is \$3,448.13. The Luminaria account balance is \$880.25

Visitor Center Report: In Gail Major's absence, Judy Fitzpatrick reported that the visitors for February and March numbered 37. She is setting up an Excel spreadsheet to record monthly and annual totals, starting with the year 2005. Discussion was held regarding the repair of the doors. Scott O'Brien thought materials and labor should be donated by members. None of the local tradesmen contacted for the repairs are a member of the Chamber. Three bids will be turned in to the Mayor. On the subject of having the Caboose open longer hours and more days, Fran Altieri suggested asking for volunteers from the High School.

Website Report: Dirk Norris reported that there had been 1,642 hits on the website in March, for an overall total of 49,220. The March totals were up from the same period in 2007 which was 1,286.

Committee Reports:

Membership Committee: Welda Grider asked the members to give some thought to any businesses that are not presently Chamber members and would be a good candidate to receive a letter from the Membership Committee.

Budget Committee: Lucy Rickman had to leave the meeting before the report could be given.

Advertising/Promotions Committee: Cindy Thompson presented an ad layout proposed for the Capitan Tourist and Business Guide. The guide will be promoting rural Lincoln County including Capitan, Carrizozo, Nogal, White Oaks, Lincoln, Hondo, and San Patricio. 5,000 are planned for the first printing and more will be printed at a later date.

Distribution to Ruidoso, Las Cruces, Alamogordo and the Albuquerque Airport is planned. Carrizozo businesses are invited to advertise with a display ad (\$45/\$75/\$150 depending on size of ad), or a listing in business category (\$15.)

Motion: Motion to place the ad in the Capitan Tourist & Business Guide for \$75 was made by Fran Altieri. Second to the motion was made by Welda Grider. The motion passed by unanimous decision.

Unfinished Business: Membership Directories will be going out one month later than planned. The letters to potential new members and reminders to old members were late being sent. Currently there are 63 members, only 30 letters have been mailed or delivered. The directories should be ready in May.

New Business: Cindy Thompson handed out a 2008 Calendar of Events for Carrizozo and surrounding area and asked members to provide corrections or additional information to Fran Altieri.

Announcements:

Welda Grider asked members to provide business information she can include in letters she sends out to all her customers.

"Business After Hours": Reminder that BAH will be held at Gallery 408 on April 9 at 5 PM.

Fran Altieri urged members to buy Burritos every Friday in April to support the Special Olympics and to support the Fire Department's Brisket Dinner on Friday evening.

Adjourn: There being no further business presented, the meeting was adjourned at 1:18 PM.

Submitted by Cindy Thompson, Recording Secretary