



**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 March 11, 2008

Officers Present: Dirk Norris, President; Warren Malkerson, Vice President; Donna Harkey, Treasurer; Cindy Thompson, Recording Secretary; Gail Major, Correspondence Secretary

Members Present: Lucy Rickman, Welda Grider, Fran Altieri, Eileen Lovelace, Judy Fitzpatrick, Jamie Gieb, Dennis Dunnum, Tim Thompson.

Guests: Kathy McCormick (NM Economic Development Dept.), Polly Chavez, Marilu Nickels.

The Regular Meeting of the Carrizozo Chamber of Commerce was held at the Four Winds Restaurant. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by the President.

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

**Minutes of February 12, 2008.** The President explained that the Minutes of the previous meeting were mailed with the monthly newsletter to all members, and were also available on the Chamber website. There were no comments or changes to the Minutes.

**Motion:** Motion made by Eileen Lovelace, second by Judy Fitzpatrick to accept the Minutes as posted. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Speaker:** Kathy McCormick presented information about the NM Economic Development Dept and its role in helping communities around the state to energize economic activity. There are programs to encourage manufacturing companies to locate in rural areas, recruiting companies that provide jobs and assisting existing businesses. The goal is to use resources available in the area to increase the tax base while respecting the culture and history of the community. Kathy said she will help set up a regional business resources trade fair to provide educational opportunities for Chambers and other organizations in Lincoln County.

Dennis Dunnum followed with a report on the formation of *Carrizozo Works*. This is a group of interested citizens and business owners that will form a corporation and follow the criteria set by the State for the Certified Communities Initiative. An office has been donated by Warren Malkerson, with utilities paid for one year. Diane Dean will coordinate the painting and decorating of the new offices. Furniture has been donated by Ned Pieters. A computer has also been donated. Marc Cohen donated \$500.

**Treasurer's Report:** Donna Harkey provided a written report to all members present. The checking account balance is \$3,373.25. The Luminaria Fund balance is \$1,053.05. Comment was added by Judy Fitzpatrick that the Treasurer's report is not included in the monthly newsletter. No decision was made.

President Norris asked for the member to consider paying off the balance of the Burro purchase, rather than make the \$100 per month payments as agreed at the February meeting.

**Motion:** Welda Grider made the motion that the final payment for the Burro be made. Second to the motion was made by Judy Fitzpatrick. Motion passed by unanimous decision.

**Visitor Center Report:** Gail Major reported that there had been 15 groups sign the guest book. Number of Inquiries and e-mails were down. She commented on the White Sands Films Festival and a Swashbuckling School that will be held there.

**Website Report:** Dirk Norris reported that there had been 1,310 visits to the website, for a total of 42,134 hits. These numbers were up from January.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Bylaws Committee:** A report by Welda Grider was delayed until a decision was announced by the Membership Committee.

Gail Major reported that the **Membership Committee** recommends the addition of a category called "Event Membership" which will be a non-voting membership, and the fee will be \$35. Promotion will be included in all avenues available to the Chamber such as newsletter, visitor center, and website.

**Motion:** Motion was made by Gail Major, second by Eileen Lovelace, to add the level of membership called "Event Member." The vote was unanimous.

A copy of the proposed bylaws was distributed to all members present and will be mailed to members not present. Additional copies are available on request. Members are encouraged to read the bylaws. Contact Welda Grider to make recommendations, corrections or changes before the next meeting. A vote on the new bylaws is planned for the April meeting.

**Events Committee:** Fran Altieri informed the group that there are plans to add to the list of Chamber sponsored events and to elaborate on the Chamber "owned" events such as the July 4<sup>th</sup> activities and Luminarias. She is communicating with Dan Dattola's assistant at Valle del Sol about permission to have the fireworks and Independence Day activities near the pond as has been done in the past and to extend the event from an evening-only activity to a day-long celebration with booths and vendors. She will give a further report at the next meeting. Fran also expressed thanks to Kathy McCormick about holding an educational summit in Carrizozo and would like to be involved in the planning.

**Advertising Committee:** Cindy Thompson advised the group that the Tourism Dept. has a deadline of March 31 for being included in the 2009 Calendar of statewide events. The Capitan Chamber is planning a rural Lincoln County Visitor and Business Guide. There will be further information presented at the next meeting.

**Membership Committee:** Gail Major stated there are a total of 52 members to date.

### **Unfinished Business:**

**Non-Profit Status:** The qualifying letter from the Treasury Department was received. The Carrizozo Chamber is now a 501-c (6) Non Profit Organization.

### **New Business:**

**Carrizozo Works:** President Norris asked the members present to consider inviting *Carrizozo Works* to be an honorary member. This would be a membership with no dues paid, and no voting privilege, but the group will benefit from all the support the Chamber can offer.

**Motion:** Welda Grider made the motion to accept *Carrizozo Works* as a new member. Second to the motion was made by Fran Altieri. The vote to accept the honorary membership was unanimous.

**"Business After Hours":** Warren Malkerson announced that Gallery 408 will host a get-together for Chamber members in April. Refreshments will be served. The date will be announced soon. The Sign Studio will also host a BAH and will announce a date at the next meeting.

**Business Profiles:** Gail Major and Judy Fitzpatrick announced that Fourth World Cottage Industries will be featured in the next newsletter. A new business member was announced: Jamie Gieb has opened Ghille Dhu, clothing design and manufacturer and metal art, located on 12<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **Announcements:**

Judy Fitzpatrick reminded members that the E-Waste recycling day is March 29.

Warren Malkerson announced that they have hired a new coordinator for Gallery 408. Alisa Kenyon will oversee operations of the gallery on 12<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **Adjourn:**

There being no further business, a **Motion** was made by Lucy Rickman, second by Warren Malkerson to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 1:25.

Submitted by Cindy Thompson, Recording Secretary