

Opportunity Grosse Ile
Monday, May 3, 2010
Grosse Ile High School Media Center

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

Present: Andrew Johnson, Dena Dardzinski, Jim Schiesel, Ann Loftus, Armando Sardonopolis, Greg Goyert, Chad Novak, Craig Pilkington, Greg Kish & Susie Harrison

Mission Statement Andrew Johnson's resolve is to read our Mission Statement prior to each meeting to remind us of why we are present and keep us on focus.

Minutes from April 12, 2010 approved.

Treasurer's Report Jim Schiesel presented the current statement as of April 30, 2010. Total assets \$1,819.61. Enchanted Evening expenses have all been turned in. Chad Novak received the OK to spend \$47.00 on a 3 x 12 banner announcing Opportunity Grosse Ile to be ordered from Decals.com.

Islandwide Open House Dena Dardzinski reported on the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on April 25th and results of the Realtor Open Houses as best as was reported to her.

Welcome Home! Center And the first week of operations. Dena is the "floater" but will need individuals to sign up for regular assignments. Sign up sheets to be passed out at meetings. A volunteer handbook is in preparation. A sandwich board could be useful to announce when the Center is open. As well as a seating bench outside the facility. Also the suggestion to contact non profit organizations from the Rotary Directory to solicit volunteers to man the operations. The answering machine phone doesn't work well and will need tuning. Armando Sardonopoli volunteered for Monday afternoons which starts the ball rolling. June 10, 2010 Ron Baker and Dena and Andrew Johnson will be meeting with the Rotary to give a presentation.

Media Relations & Outreach Andrew Johnson gave an interview with WWJ-AM and Ron, Dena and Andrew with WDET-FM. WDIV-TV4 was present at the Ribbon Cutting ceremony. Downriver Profile magazine and the News Herald are to be the next venue presentations.

Membership Volunteer Ambassadors needed. 5/15/10 for a booth at the Field and Track event at the high school and 5/22/10 during the Duathlon. A suggestion to have a banner with our Mission Statement imprinted for all to see was put forth.

Duathlon Craig Pilkington asked that we help to sponsor this event. T shirts with our Logo was a suggestion. Jim Schiesel reported that Derek Thiel who manages the airport to sign a contract (cannot remember what for).

Art Alliance presentation – June 4 Chad Novak reported on this upcoming event. OPPGI to have a booth during the IslandFest event at the airport inside the hangar on June 4th to June 6th. Suggestion to give away free hotdogs and chips. Dena offered to coordinate workers, display and materials (Whew!!)

Downriver Chamber of Commerce Black Tie Event May 13th at Yack Arena in Wyandotte. Do we think that it's a little late to set up a booth – probably needed more prescheduling notice.

Grosse Ile Business Campaign Dena acknowledged the fact the our island businesses need help and a suggestion to attend the Wednesday, May 26th Downtown Development Authority Meeting to talk about suggestions that might elicit their help. Gold punch cards from each store; Times Square Boutique is creating free flyers with the different businesses highlighted with business card size promotion. "Stay at Home – Shop Macomb". A float at Islandfest??

Funding Jim Schiesel has been in contact with John Gatti concerning our 501c3 status. It takes 4 to 6 months for the State to approve and the cost will be \$850.00 We do need this to apply for grants. We do need a realistic budget and don't need any red flags to go up. Our experts can explain and point us in the right direction.

ByLaws have been loaded on the OPPGI website.

Grants Dena Dardzinski met with Brian Loftus, supervisor, who was very supportive, to discuss asking for support in formulating a group to write for and to secure grants. At least 5 individuals are willing to help. There is a Directory of Grants available for \$70.00. And a seminar available to attend to learn how to secure such and assistance in formulating predetermination letters to send out.

It is important to maintain the momentum. And our events raise awareness. We must continue to focus on our Mission Statement. And perceptions of what we are trying to achieve.

Dues structure Armando Sardanopoli discussed the need to gel our dues structure. And Ron Baker's fee.

Pirate Weekend Chad Novak is heading up this event to be held the weekend of July 30th and 31st. Starting with a kiddie parade starting at Macomb Commons down to the Welcome Home! Center. A \$50.00 gift certificate to be given for the best costume.

Proposed event sponsored by the Grosse Ile Historical Society on Saturday morning of the 31st. Tammy Taylor to expand on this. Pirate's Cove - Saturday, July 31st evening even from 5:00 to midnight, at Chateau Elba. Discussion on different levels of ticket pricing and what would accompany each level. \$50.00 Buccaneer, \$200. for 2 tickets for a Captain Jack level and \$500. for 4 tickets under the Admiral of The Black Sea level. All discussion – ticket prices not firmed up.

Welcome at the gazebo at the gate – Dena volunteered for this role. The need for a shuttle bus from the airport. Have received that OK. Barge with fireworks set up with Ron Morris for \$1,000.

Discount Drinks to supply beer, wine, water and ice

Captain Morgan as a sponsor with attending rep for a rum tasting booth – Margarita machine? –

Cash bar to help raise funds

New Business – Craig Pilkington brought up the need to follow Robert's Rules of Order to keep us on track. To be looked in to.

Also the need to start paying Ron Baker for his services. Possibly ads on the website with a percentage going to Ron. This unresolved issue has to be dealt with. And the minutes need to reflect this fact. The Executive Committee to meet to clarify the confusion and come to a reasonable agreement.

Next meeting Monday, May 24th at 7:00 pm at the Welcome Home! Center – bring a chair

Adjournment 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted
Susie Harrison