

Honokaa Business Association

Board Meeting – July 5, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Augutzuz Elliott, president, at 5:30. The board/dinner meeting was held at the Hamakua Country Club.

Present: Augutzuz Elliott, Moshe Mandelman, Royd Warren, Ed Castillo, Orlando Smith, Bob Sterling and Lois Keb. A quorum was present.

Minutes were approved with one correction: the person to get and send a card to Judith Graham was Lois not Edie.

Treasurers' report was given and accepted. Invoices for dues will be sent out. Royd has asked our bookkeeper for assistance on that. Also, a letter will accompany the dues notice.

New Members:

John Helfferich, **Sanko Hawaii** and Spinnaker Wyss, **Symbiosis** were approved new members by a motion made by Ed and seconded by Royd.

John Helfferich brought to the table an idea that his wife, Mie, could volunteer talk to our Japanese tourists while visiting Honokaa. She would be asking what they think, need etc. during their visit here. Kind of a PR find-out-information interview with a smile. She would welcome the Japanese tourist. Mie will try to come to the next meeting. The board thought it a great idea for information.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Guz asked Orlando to be Web Site honcho. A few glitches need to be fixed.
- The GMO letter has been a little revised and now mailed/e-mailed to officials.
- Dental Plan – Royd to take it with treasurer responsibilities. Will check with Steve if all info is available.
- Welcome to Honokaa – sign can be changed. We are thinking to use the rock base as a foundation and put a raised sign above it. More later. Bob Sterling will weed-wack it this weekend.
- Makahiki Festival – tabled.
- The old Heritage sign has been replaced with a new one. Thanks to Hamakua Safety Council.
- Round-a-bout: No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussion concerning HBA subsidizing a film on businesses. Not at this time.
- **Actions** discussed:
 - a) Hamakua Times (3) featured businesses: Symbiosis, CC Jon's Snack-in Shop, and North Hawaii Community Credit Union.

- b) Decals and Certificates: It was decided that a decal and certificate will be sent to businesses in response to their payment of dues. Guz will be asking HBA member Claire Fugishigi (Hawaii Community FCU) to look into the project.
- c) HBA office: Discussion on location/need for an office. Royd brought up that we might have a solution through a grant for such a thing. Jeani might be able to help or perhaps Momi. Right now we do not have the funds unless a landlord would consider the tax break enough over rent. Royd will contact Jeani and the study will continue.
- d) General Meetings: Do we need them? Discussion and frustration about getting membership to attend. Embarrassing and disappointing. We will check the by-laws to see if general meetings (accept for the Annual meeting once a year in October) can be dispensed with. Discussion led to feel that a newsletter was more important than ever if we do not have meetings. We will work on the Annual meeting in October/with elections.
- e) OC 16 Video. Decided that HBA would do one only on HBA and Honokaa not individual businesses. Right now no video though....no money for it.
- f) The pedestrian walkway between NHERC and town: decided that Dominic Yagong was possibly a better contact. Mark Nakashima knows about the proposed idea and will be kept posted. The Hamakua Safety Council is also looking into the idea.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MEMBERSHIP COMMUNICATIONS:

- Moshe, chairman, stated that the 5 met (Moshe, Ed, Amy, & Lois) Royd joined us with list. Our list is still not current. Amy e-mailed the wrong one. Upon her return, we will get the current members and update. We decided that a newsletter to membership is very important. Personal contact and door to door are avenues we will continue. New membership is always welcome and will try to bring back dropped ones.
- We also decided to get more action from the board members. Attending meetings is very important in order to get things done. Moshe was going to ask Guz to approach the absent members if they were really interested. We need to work on the core as well as the overall membership.

ACTIVITIES: NO REPORT

FINANCE:

- Royd is working on the budget. Stated that he will make more use of Shante's time to help with annual dues etc.

Announcements/discussions

On July 21, 2011 at NHERC, 18 State and County agencies will be launching new service availability here in Honokaa. The Governor and Mayor will be present along with service reps. Many of the services found only in Hilo or Kona will be available here. NHERC has suggested the initiative and the government agencies have said that they will give it a try.

Bob Sterling again fed the troops with a great chicken dinner....Mahalo.

We had a discussion about the needs of Businesses old and new. It would be great to have resources to help with eg; a new young person with a fantastic business idea with no knowledge of business being able to discuss the who, what, where and whys of business. Financial institutions need to be more available. Established businesses need fresh ideas in these hard times. RESOURCES.....ARE THEY OUT THERE?

Respectfully submitted with probable omissions, (please make notes to correct)

Lois Keb