

Pocahontas County Chamber of Commerce Monthly Meeting
June 19, 2008
Snowshoe Career Center, Marlinton

The meeting was called to order by President Malinda Meck at 6:00 p.m. Present were: Kevin Wingfield, Malinda Meck, Helen Woolridge, Gail Hyer, David Cain, Nelson Hernandez, Gayle Boyette, Sherry Radcliff, Ginny Ramos, and Sunny Given.

Minutes from the May meeting were reviewed with the following corrections: Dave Cain asked to be identified as the dissenting vote under paragraph six providing a \$300.00 payment to the Pocahontas Times on behalf of the Farmers Market. The other addition was to include Ginny Ramos attending for Jerry Ramos. With those additions/corrections the minutes were approved.

David Cain provided the treasurer's report and a copy of the bank register for 5/16/08 to 6/19/08. Five membership dues came in during the month. Disbursement included \$25.00 for a corporate license, and \$487.60 for Web design. David Cain will send John Sharp an invoice for two dinners for the annual meeting in March. Gayle Boyette made a motion, seconded by Nelson Hernandez to approve the disbursement; passed unanimously.

Gayle Boyette made a motion, seconded by Sunny Given, passed unanimously to remove delinquent members from the membership list on our Web site.

Sunny Given made a motion, seconded by Helen Woolridge, to ask Malinda's contact to review our books for between 300 and 400 dollars; passed unanimously.

Old Business – Under old business, a discussion followed concerning the Service and Business Awards. David Cain made a motion, seconded by Nelson Hernandez, to include the service award form on the Web site. Gayle Boyette made a motion, seconded by Sunny Given, to give the winner of the service award a one year membership to the Chamber; passed unanimously.

Web site numbers were: April: sessions- 1109 Hits – 14,136 May: sessions – 2035 Hits – 21674.

Malinda indicated that she had several people ask her if as members of the Chamber they could have one page on our Web site to feature their business. Sherry Radcliff made the motion, seconded by Gayle Boyette, we find the costs of such a page on our site before we advocate the idea to our members; passed unanimously.

Gayle Boyette has not heard anything back from Work Force WV regarding our request to have a dedicated phone line at the Career Center answered by Work Force staff. The group asked Gayle to make a phone call or two to follow-up on this idea.

After some discussion, Helen Woolridge made a motion, seconded by David Cain that the Chamber becomes an official sponsor of Marlinton's Bike Night during the Freedom Festival Rally at Snowshoe Mountain; passed unanimously.

Discussion followed on the Brainstorming session of February. A brochure from Bath County was passed around and everyone seemed to like it. Gayle Boyette made the motion, seconded by Helen Woolridge that Sunny Given work to design such a brochure for our Chamber; passed unanimously. Gayle Boyette offered to assist with copy and overall theme.

Much discussion took place regarding the Chamber's mission statement. The group agreed (without motion) that this project should be completed by the September meeting. Bill Herold, Sherry Radcliff, Sunny Given, and Nelson Hernandez are on the committee.

The group agreed to participate in the "Make It Shine" program in April 2009. More discussion will take place at the September meeting but it was agreed to place an ad in the Pocahontas Times in January 09 seeking ideas to include in the "Make It Shine" event.

Nelson Hernandez and Gail Hyer presented a program they have worked on within the confines of Marlinton called "Friendly Merchant" program. The program is designed to attract attention of visitors to county businesses. Posters would be distributed with information advocating tourists visit local businesses for special discounts. Gail Boyette made a motion, seconded by Sunny Given, to adopt the Friendly Merchant program; passed unanimously. Gail Hyer and Sunny Given offered to work on branding associated with the program.

Under new business – Item 6A. was tabled until the next meeting.

Sunny Given made a motion, seconded by Gayle Boyette, the Chamber pay the travel and room plus registration fee to Dave Cain to attend the WV Chamber meeting on June 23 and 24; passed unanimously.

Item 6c – Farmer's Market Setup was also tabled due to the lateness of the hour.

The next meeting will be at the Library on July 17th at 6:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn Gayle Boyette, seconded by Helen Woolridge; passed unanimously.