

## **AUGUST DMOR MEETING MINUTES**

August 13, 2009

Members Present: Jeff Messer, Allen Self, Linda Rulau, Diane Chestnut, "Mom", Renee Butler, Janice Vyoral, Rebecca Covell, Danny Meeks, Rita Escobedo, Travis Reese, Marcia Vogelsang

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Messer at 5:40 pm. Reading of the minutes was waived due to the absence of Secretary Carolyn Pincheck who was running late. Marcia volunteered to take minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Linda reported a balance of \$2399.63, and stated that the \$400.00 advertising budget for the August 1<sup>st</sup> event was exceeded by \$42.50. Rene moved that payment of the excess advertising costs in the amount of \$42.50 be paid from the \$2399.63 in the DMOR account. It was seconded and approved.

### **REPORT ON AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup> EVENT:**

The event was "right on"- an overwhelming success! People came Downtown all day, enjoying the sidewalks and visiting shops and businesses. The attendance verified that the community read the DMOR advertisements and saw that the City and Chamber promoted it. The crowd was multicultural and included all ages. Merchants received great comments all day long.

Jeff thanked everyone that helped make the event successful. It was a good coming together of City Officials and Downtown Merchants. Renee reported that Lee Chestnut has written an excellent article about the event to be published in the Herald Coaster the same day the new picture is on the front page. This is projected in the weekend or Tuesday edition.

The picture taken on August 1<sup>st</sup> had 189 people in it and the original one had 95- quite a success! The new pictures are on sale for \$24.00 and 50 have already been sold. They are 6"x 30". Linda shared that Once Again has a framer in the shop if anyone would like to have the picture framed. Since the August 1<sup>st</sup> event was so successful, it is recommended that Downtown have an event semi-annually.

### **REPORT ON BOB'S TACO STATION:**

Bob's Taco Station was recently visited by Guy Fieri, host and star of the Food Network TV show Diners, Drive Ins and Dives. The community turned out to celebrate the event. The restaurant will be featured on the program sometime in the fall. Members were encouraged to check out "bobstacos.com" to get the date the program will be aired.

Linda recommended that the Merchants work with Bob to display information about Downtown in his restaurant since added Tourism is expected as a result of the television spotlight. Rebecca suggested that the City Tourism department could possibly fund some printing. Jeff and Rebecca will meet with Bob to come up with ideas and a plan for consideration.

#### “SELF MADE IT”

Allen Self announced he has sold his business and will be moving from the area. He shared that he had asked that the new owners stay in Rosenberg, but regretfully they opted to move the business. Allen is selling his small ranchette and noted that if anyone is interested in buying it, 6 black cows come with it...but the dog and donkey don't!

#### RAILROAD MUSEUM:

The September 17, 2009 Railroad Museum Gala tickets are on sale. Jeff will distribute them to shops who want to have them available to customers.

#### DECEMBER Preview:

Plans for the second annual Texas Tech Night are underway. Joyce will be heading up the event again this year. The date will be in December, most likely after students return home for Winter Break, and will be set soon. It will be after “Christmas in Rosenberg”.

#### GLASS SHOW:

The largest glass show in the nation is underway at the Fair Grounds August 14-16. Dealers are already in town and shopping Rosenberg. Linda updated the Historic Shopping District leaflet and map, and copies have been delivered to the Fairgrounds for the event. Merchants were provided a copy and are encouraged to duplicate them and have them available for customers in their businesses.

#### OCTOBER- A BIG MONTH:

Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>

The Railroad “Funeroo” Railroad Festival is especially designed for children and their families and a crowd is expected Downtown. Rita suggested that DMOR sponsor an “Old Fashion Sidewalk Sale” that day. Each participating store would work out their details and discounts. Since parents will be with their children, this would give them a chance to shop “outside” without the worry of controlling children inside shops. It was suggested that we have a drawing for a gift certificate or certificates. Registration for the drawing would give us addresses and e-mails for future events.

“Downtown Bucks” were discussed for the gift certificate(s). The idea is that Downtown Bucks could be spent at any DMOR establishment. “Bucks” could be initiated on October 10, but Rita suggested we might consider making it an on-going program where Merchants could award “Bucks” to their customers. DMOR

might be able to print the "Bucks" and Merchants could put their stamp on the back to identify the shop that awarded them. Members will discuss more details and share recommendations for an on-going program.

Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>:

The Chamber blender is set for October 15, and at the September meeting, Renee needs to know who wants to participate. It will begin at 5:00 or after.

Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>

The Annual Car Show is on, and will most likely be on Avenue F this year. DMOR members will stuff goodie bags at the October meeting. More door prizes are needed and Linda has the forms. Prizes should be worth \$50 or more. Linda needed more street guards for the event and Janice, Jeff and Renee filled the need. Advertising for T-Shirts is also needed. Linda distributed poster for Merchants to put in their windows.

#### CITY REPORT:

Christmas in Rosenberg is in the planning stage now. With a tight budget this year, focus will be on local dance troops and entertainment. Santa will be in Butler Park set up as a Winter Wonderland. The Nativity is scheduled for the Park on Avenue G.

The City is working on city parks and some changes are in the works. The rocket at Sunset Park will blast off to Seaborne Park on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

All city budgets are tight this year. Rebecca reported that she did not cut advertising in her budget proposal. However, approval of the final budget by the Council is pending.

#### SIDEWALK CONCERN:

Travis Reese shared a concern about the safety of the new sidewalks on the West side of 3<sup>rd</sup> street. He reported that he has seen at least 5 accidents while people were walking. These were due to the protruding concrete ramps in front of the Soda Fountain and near Becerra's Insurance. Rebecca will give the information to the Project Manager at the City.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Marcia Vogelsang