

Westside Association Meeting Minutes

October 1, 2009

Meeting called to order by President Connie Drexler @12:00

Approval of September minutes moved and 2nd/passed

Treasurer's Report

- Low activity this month
- Donation for Holiday parade

Chamber Report:

- Chamco/OAEDC- possible combination
- China trip
 - Early spring
- Nov 9- annual Meeting
- 2nd phase of Vision Oshkosh- branding phrase- beginning the week of October 5

Director's Meeting:

- Survey project
 - In light of the changes at City Hall possible hold on survey
 - Working on setting up a meeting with the city manager to see where his vision is going /future planes
- Insight magazine-
 - story on 41 corridor.- quoted Connie Drexler as President of Westside
- possible speakers/programs
 - Jan- networking
 - Feb- DOT update
 - March – annual meeting
 - April- ChamCo/OAEDC
 - May- Paul Essingler- Mayor
 - June- School superintendent

Guest Speakers:

Joe Ferlo- Executive Director of The Grand Opera House

Jim Macy- President of the Opera House Foundation

- City owns the building
- Opera House Foundation handles the complete management of the facility
 - Receive some room tax dollars
 - Receive small amount of tax dollars
- Two years ago began with the renovation of 2nd floor area into a Lounge/restrooms
 - Found out the area needs sprinkler system
 - Went to the city and received \$250,000.00 for the project
- January 2009
 - Found structural problems in the building- all in the original 1883 building
 - Old water damage had caused trusses to have issues, then found attic floor juices
 - 1883 plaster ceiling also had problems
- February 2009
 - Closed the building to determine how to fix the problems
 - Relocated 25 programs at various venues into town
- July 2009
 - Found out cost to repair- \$1.8 million
 - Began campaign "Stand with the Grand"
 - Had 53 speakers at the city council meeting
 - Helped cement what The Grand means to the community-tremendous support from the community all ages- children to senior citizens
 - Foundation Board pledged to raise \$250,000

- \$500,000 from the State budget
- Continuing all programming at other areas in town
- Also using the lobby for small shows such as the Fantastiks as a 50 seat theater
- 10,000 kids go through The Grand with school programs
- facility is used 260 days per year (performances, company meetings)
- County Board voted \$50,000 for the Grand Opera House
- Various sponsorships available (from \$500.00 and up)
- Building an endowment fund
- Donations are coming in- \$40,000 already raised

Motion to donate \$5000.00 over 2 or 3 years to The Grand Opera House from the Westside Association (Dennis Schwab/2nd Gary Eake) passed

Meeting adjourned at 1PM