

RVBA
Minutes
The Rondout Valley Business Association
General Membership Meeting, February 14th, 2008

Friends and Family II Hillside Restaurant, Accord. 7:30am

1. Welcome and Introductions

Richard Travers welcomed everyone and those present introduced themselves.

2. Changes to the RVBA by-laws

Tim Sweeney explained the recent revisions to the by-laws and the fact that they were approved in a first vote at the January General Membership meeting. Tim made a motion for a (required) second vote and the motion was seconded by Howard Mont. The revised by-laws were adopted unanimously.

3. 2008 Meetings and Events

a. Meetings:

Richard reviewed the alternating breakfast and dinner meeting schedule. He explained that guest speakers will be invited to address business related topics throughout the year, including the RVBA inviting Town Supervisors to come speak to the membership. Members were invited to propose meeting topics.

b. Events:

Photo Contest/Calendar: Richard described the RVBA calendar and photo contest idea. Photos will be exhibited and auctioned. This new annual event will raise funds for an RVBA scholarship and will provide PR for the Rondout Valley. The committee will be asking for volunteers from the membership for various aspects of the event. More information to follow.

The following suggestions were made: The Hudson Valley Credit Union puts out a calendar with area photos this could be looked at for reference. In future years, entries could be solicited from tourists, visitors perhaps as a separate category.

Garden Tour: Eric Stewart announced that the RVBA will be sponsoring the Garden Tour this year (tentative date is the last Saturday in June) along with Lederman Childrens Center, the High Falls Civic Association, and possibly

High Meadow School. The following aspects were highlighted:

-Ads for the program will be solicited.

-Securing Gardens for the tour is key. Eric explained that only 2 or 4 cars (at most) visit a garden at a given time and volunteer greeters will be assigned.

Members were invited to join the Garden Tour Committee. Volunteer help will be needed for ads, greeters, and much more.

4. Membership:

All present were asked to send in 2008 dues if they hadn't done so already. Member profiles are being updated in anticipation of re-issuing the Directory. Richard asked members to offer input and ideas on the RVBA website.

Membership Drive: Roger Weisman asked about the membership drive/incentive program and Richard initiated a discussion of the mechanics of this idea.

All agreed that the membership drive will be a contest, beginning February 14th and ending April 1, 2008. The member who brings in the most new members during this time period will receive a free RVBA meeting dinner. Antonio Perez-Melero (RVBA member artist) offered to donate a print as an additional

prize. Antonio also announced the upcoming anniversary of his piece in Arlington National Cemetery, and described his walk-through American flag which will be on display locally.

5. Re-election to the RVBA Board.

Richard Travers explained that Carl Pezzino offered to stay on the RVBA board for one more year. Tim Sweeney made a motion that he be re-appointed for a one year term. The motion was seconded by Roger Weisman and unanimously approved.

Submitted by Brooke Pickering-Cole 2-27-08