

RVBA

Thursday, May 7, 2009

Minutes taken by: Cindy Sweeney

Minutes

Meeting of the Rondout Valley Business Association Board of Directors Thursday, May 7, 2009, 7:30am at Friends & Family II.

In attendance: Richard Travers, Rocco Pucino, Carl Pezzino, Pam Kimmerling-Hoveling, Dan Gangon, Denise McCarrol, Ben Shor, Laurel Sweeney, Cindy Sweeney

Guest attendee: Sherryl Pierre of Travers O'Keefe insurance

Not present: Tom Edwards, Ev Mann, Eric Stewart, Tim Sweeney

Meeting convened at 7:30

Motion made by Carl to adopt the minutes of March 2009 board meeting. The motion was seconded by Rocco and unanimously approved.

1. Computers for Vets: Alan Marker of Alans Affordable Computers in Rosendale gave a presentation to the Board. He is requesting of the RVBA to act as a 501(c)(3) umbrella for his cause so he can accept and properly process the donations he receives and gives. As a brief presentation of his history: It came to Alans attention several years ago that United States Servicemen and Veterans did not have access to forms of communication currently available to the majority of people. In an effort to remedy this disparity he started a program in which he accepts donations of unwanted computers, refurbishes them where possible (or uses them for parts) and then donates them to people in need, primarily veterans. Owing to the success of his operation it has become necessary for Alan to address his legal and accounting responsibilities. He would like the RVBA to help him with this. Following his presentation the Board had a discussion about how best to proceed. It was generally agreed that the RVBA would like to help Alan. Several details of procedure were discussed. Everyone agreed that the most important aspects will be strict accounting requirements & regular information audits. Sherryl Pierre also suggested that individuals donating a computer should be required to sign an agreement of understanding stating that all their personal information has been removed from the computer and that Computers for Vets will not be held responsible for any accidental transfer of personal information to another party. It was decided by the Board that assistance to Alan should be limited to a one (1) year "incubator" period. During that time, while acting as a tax shelter for Computers for Vets, the primary goal of the RVBA will be to mentor Alan, assisting him in getting his own 501(c)(3) status and working with him to organize his affairs into sustainable systems. Before the June BOD meeting, the members of the sub-committee, consisting of Carl, Dan & Rocco, will meet with Alan to present to him the RVBA's ideas and confirm his understanding of and commitment to his responsibilities in this matter. The sub-committee will report back to the Board at the next meeting and a vote regarding Computers for Vets will be held at that time. A motion was made by Richard to move forward in this manner and seconded by Ben.

2. Information backup: Richard presented the need for an electronic file backup at a location separate from where all the information is currently being stored. It was pointed out, that in case of a fire or some other calamity, it was possible that all that information could be lost. Richard requested the board approve an expenditure not to exceed \$100 for the purchase of a hard drive onto which the information could be copied and stored at a second location. It was approved unanimously.

3. Membership Campaign status: 11 Buy Local – Think Local first signs have been distributed throughout the area. Print advertising is in place in both the Shwanguk Journal and the Bluestone Press. Articles were featured in both newspapers last issue and two membership inquiries were received as a

result of the SJ article. The list for the mailing to area businesses has been compiled. It will be vetted and returned to Cornerstone who is expecting to proceed with the mailing next week.

4. Garden Tour: Eric was not present so no update was given. It was, however, noted by Richard, that the post tour mixer location will be at the Northern Spy and not the Depuy Canal House, as previously supposed.

5. Membership mailers: Both John Novi of the Depuy Canal House and Richard Travers of Travers O'Keefe have requested use of the RVBA member list for business mailings they would like to do. Cindy presented the board with John Novi's postcard regarding an event he is hosting and Richard presented his informational insurance brochure. The Board approved both mailings. Both businesses will be invoiced accordingly. It was decided that a sub-committee should be formed to review these requests when they are submitted. Members of this sub-committee are Pam, Denise, Rocco, Cindy & Richard.

6. Visions Calendar update: The press release detailing a call for entries has been sent to local media. Additionally, posters are being printed and will be dispersed during the following week.

7. Website update: As per the Boards request during the April 18th special meeting VisitVortex has agreed to a reduction in rate of \$500 from their original quotation and Cornerstone Services has agreed to a \$300 rate reduction. Additionally, both have agreed to extended payment terms. That being the case, development is moving ahead with Cindy acting as the RVBA representative.

8. Omega publishing: Sue Cummings is collecting data on behalf of individuals who paid for a presence in a phone book that, because of financial insolvency, never went to press. Richard posed a question about whether the RVBA should involve itself in this by sending an email to all its members informing them of this action being taken and including Sue Cummings information. Following a vote, it was unanimously agreed that the membership should be informed and the RVBA would send an email detailing the information.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15

Submitted by Cindy Sweeney May 11, 2009