



NOTES: October 6, 2009 - 7:30 a.m.
Transportation Committee

I. Welcome and Review of September 1st Grand Vision Planning Meeting

Evan opened the meeting and welcomed everyone and asked for a review of the Grand Vision Discussion from the last meeting. Evan then discussed the roles of the Chamber Transportation Committee and the Grand Vision Transportation Committee. The Chamber Transportation Committee will start the meeting with review of its agenda. The group will then facilitate the Grand Vision Committee meeting starting at about 8 a.m.

II. Chamber Transportation Committee

Update:

Doug DeYoung updated the committee on the approval of the Old Town Parking Deck project. Doug also discussed the chambers participation in a BATA survey that will start on Wednesday October 7th. The study will look at the transit opportunities in the community and questions will be focused specifically to chamber members. Tom Menzel stated he will share the results with the committee at our December meeting. The chamber recently had visitors from the Marquette Chamber as part of an exchange of ideas. Members from the Marquette group along with Doug D. met with a representative from Senator Debbie Stabenow's office to discuss ways to save the 600 million dollar road funds for 2010. The state at this point does not believe it can make the mandatory match. The position of the two chambers is our US Senators need to look for ways to bring those funds into the state without the match requirements.

New Business:

Herb Lemcool brought up that the committee should look to create a presentation for a sub committee on the Acme and East Bay Township road millages. Herb will work to organize this meeting in the the next week. The committee will then make a recommendation on if we should support and/or educate members on the millage requests.

Herb Lemcool and Mary Gillis brought up that a request will be made to the county board to approve a county wide road millage. Mary will provide more information to the committee at its November meeting.

Tom Menzel brought up the fact that TCAPS will start reviewing cuts and may make changes to how it provides bussing services. Tom pointed out that BATA needs to be at the table now if TCAPS is seriously looking at transportation options. Doug DeYoung pointed out that a committee is currently reviewing proposed budget cuts and was to have recommendations in early December for the school board. At that point we will know what types of changes if any might be part of the discussions.



NOTES: October 6, 2009 – 8:00 a.m.
Grand Vision Transportation Committee

I. Sub Committees:

Discussion on Modes and Focus for the Grand Vision Committee sub groups.
After a lengthy discussion on the groups and focus the committee agreed we need to identify immediate, short-term and long-term opportunities to help educate the public and create wins that the Grand Vision can tie into. After identifying these opportunities the groups needed to be a part of the sub-committee working on the objectives would be identified.

II. Goal Identification:

Development of a Regional Transportation Plan

The committee will follow the goals of the Grand Vision:

Transportation Working Group seeks to ensure that transportation projects are designed to maintain and improve the existing road system, increase public transportation services between cities and villages in the region, and expand infrastructure serving pedestrians and bicyclists both in and out of town.

A request was made that one of the sub groups work on rail opportunities as a long term goal. This group would begin gathering information on the opportunities and cost of rail in our region.

VI. Future Agenda:

A request has been made for city, county and statewide plans for the next several years should be presented at the next Grand Vision meeting. This information will assist the committees to identify opportunities to help educate and promote to the public. The committee would also like a presentation from TC-TALUS on goals and opportunities that might provide for future partnerships. This would include the promotion and education opportunities on grant money available to create projects in the community.

V. Next Meeting for both committee's: Tuesday November 3, 2009 7:30-9 a.m. Steelcase Room

The meeting was adjourned.



NOTES: September 25, 2009 – 7:30 a.m.
Government Relations Committee

I. Welcome and review of Notes from August 28, 2009

Doug DeYoung opened the meeting and welcomed Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools Superintendent Mike Buell to the committee.

II. City Report:

Old Town Parking Deck Update:

Bryan Crough and Ben Bifoss updated the committee on the contractor bids, time line and meeting dates for the upcoming vote on the Old Town Parking Deck.

On October 5th the City Commission is expected to vote for the Bonds and the contractor for the project. Doug DeYoung reported on the chambers efforts working with the neighborhood associations, business community and other groups to show support for the parking deck. We will be working to have a large showing of support on October 5th.

City Commission Candidate Forum:

The Chamber is hosting a City Commission candidate forum at Northwestern Michigan College's Oleson Center on Thursday, October 15 from 6:30-9 p.m. There are four candidates for three open seats on the commission; MaryAnn Moore, Michael Gillman, Denise Scrudato, and Jody Bergman. The event will open with a meet and greet from 6:30 to 7 p.m. The forum will be moderated by 7&4 News anchor Bill Froehlich

III. Advocacy Agenda:

Traverse City Advocacy Committee had its first meeting in mid-September and is working to expand the group before its next meeting. The group of seven would like to see about twenty members. After new members are added a permanent meeting date will be selected.

IV. Federal Reports:

Dr. Kerry Kayserriian updated the committee on his recent trip to Washington D.C. and the status of the current debate over national healthcare. He pointed out that a lot of work was still needed on any bills that would come out of a committee to a vote on either floor. He spent time with several staff members during office visits.

V. State Reports:

Doug DeYoung updated the group on the current budget situation in Lansing. Several discussions were held on how the cuts will have lasting impacts on a lot of our local governments, schools and services.

VI. Next Meeting

- October 30, 2009, 7:30 a.m. at the Chamber office

The meeting was adjourned.



Health Care Committee
of the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce
Meeting Notes: September 2, 2009 – 8:00 a.m.

Present: Chair Jim McDonnell, Diane Butler, Lyn Chappel, Caryn Cleland, Gae Ellery, Laura Galbraith, Tracy Kiersey, Greg Lewis, Steve Perdue, Frank Smith, Russ Knopp, Kory Hansen, Sharon Olson, John Schneider

Call to Order: Jim McDonnell called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. Introductions were made and Laura Galbraith, Vice President of Administration for the Chamber, was welcomed as a new member of the Committee.

Review Meeting Notes: The minutes of June 3, 2009 meeting were approved as written.

• State Employee Health Care Reform

Steve Perdue reported that at the August 29th Government Relations Committee meeting, the Committee approved the concept of state-wide healthcare plan. The Northwest Michigan Chamber Alliance (NWMCA) which includes Petoskey, Cadillac, Benzie and Gaylord Chambers, has already voted to support reform. Although some details need to be worked out, but Steve Perdue requested the Committee support the concept. The goal would be to consolidate insurance plans, exempting those that are ahead of the curve, such as Northwestern Michigan College. Motion was made and duly supported to support the concept of health care reform. With two abstentions, motion passed by majority vote.

• November 12 & Future Seminars

After considerable discussion regarding lackluster attendance at seminars, it was supported to still hold the November 12 seminar date and “Wellness” topic. The question was posed about how seminar format and if that format is still applicable. Topic content was also addressed.. Caryn reported that the Chamber’s new Customer Relationship Management system is in place along with new communications coordinator, Nate Jorgenson. She will work with Nate to draft a survey of the Chamber membership regarding their interests as they relate to health care. The draft will be send to Committee members before posting on the website. Target date for this is October. Caryn will also work with Nate regarding podcasting seminars. Consideration of holding small seminars at business locations was suggested. Diane will send Jim a copy of Dr. Collins’ past presentation. We may wish to repeat that presentation. Jim asked Caryn to secure seminar dates for 2010.

The September 15th Good Morning TC breakfast will offer Chamber members an opportunity to speak directly with Blue Cross Blue Shield executives.

- **Technology Update**

Laura Galbraith provided a brief overview of the Chamber's new database system, and its potential after a few bugs are worked out. She is working closely with the company who developed the system.

- **Other Business / Open Discussion**

Jim recently attended a small gathering of area representatives who met with Senator Carl Levin where the Senator stated the move for nationalized health care is a moving target.

- **Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Caryn Cleland
Executive Assistant to the President & CEO
Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce

NEXT MEETING: October 7, 2009 • 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. • VanSumeren Room