

Board of Directors Meeting January 8, 2009

The Griffin-Spalding Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met at the Griffin Regional Welcome Center on January 8, 2009 with Stephanie Windham, Chairman, presiding. L.V. Skipper gave the Invocation, Jim King led the Pledge to the Flag.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present: Stephanie Windham, David Brock, Jim King, Jerry Richards, Curtis Jones, Susan Thaxton, Charlotte Eady, Jim Skinner, John Tidwell, L.V. Skipper, Miranda Dender, Eric Callahan, Be-Atrice Cunningham and David Clevenger. Committee Chairs & Affiliates: David Luckie, Virginia Martin and Tina Grubbs. Guests: Rita Johnson and Steven Whitted. Chamber staff: Bonnie Pfrogner and Niki Turner.

ABSENT: Allen Edwards and John Quinn.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A calendar of events for January and February was distributed to board members. A copy of the calendar is attached to the original minutes and also available on the Chamber of Commerce's website, www.griffinchamber.com.

Stephanie Windham announced she would like a quarterly networking meeting, with the first to begin in late March or early April. Details to be announced at a later date.

Stephanie also announced a Fundraising/Finance Committee will be formed. Board members were asked to send Stephanie recommendations for this committee by Monday, January 12, 2009. The focus of this committee will be on marketing and bringing in non-dues revenue to the Chamber.

MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2008, meeting of the Board of Directors was made by Jim King, seconded by David Clevenger. Motion carried.

FINANCIALS

Curtis Jones made a motion to approve the November report, L.V. Skipper seconded. Motion carried (copy is attached to original minutes on file).

AMBASSADORS

L.V. Skipper announced the Ambassador Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. at the Welcome Center. Ambassadors will focus on continuing to visit businesses with popcorn from the Chamber and will discuss any role they may need to play at the upcoming Annual Dinner.

MEMBERSHIP

Jim King stressed the importance of membership retention to maintain finances; one effort includes allowing members to pay their dues in increments throughout the year instead of a lump sum payment. A letter composed by the Executive Committee will be posted in an upcoming Member to Member Business Blast.

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Bonnie Pfrogner announced an organizational meeting will be held on Thursday, January 22, 2009 at 7:30 a.m. at the Welcome Center. Priority forms will soon be sent requesting program ideas and suggestions for 2009. Legislative priorities are being finalized and will be ready by the Annual Dinner, January 24, 2009.

WOMEN'S COUNCIL

Miranda Dender reported the committee met on January 6, 2009 and decided the decorating theme for the Annual Dinner this year will be "A Moment in Time" with black and white

decorations and historical photographs. The committee also assigned the 2009 meetings to members of the Board for responsibility of finding guest speakers.

G/S DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

David Luckie first welcomed Stephanie Windham to the Development Authority Board. David announced SPLOST bonds have sold, which now means the Development Authority owns the “Big Shanty” property. Proposals are now being reviewed for bids, with development likely to begin by the end of the first quarter.

GRIFFIN DOWNTOWN COUNCIL/MAINSTREET

Bonnie Pfrogner reported the following on behalf of Kira Harris-Braggs:

Mistletoe Market was held on December 13, 2008 which was very successful and attracted 37 vendors and more than 300 visitors to the Welcome Center.

Planning is underway for June Jam 2009. The date is tentatively scheduled for June 13, 2009.

Anyone interested in participating on this year’s planning committee, or would like their business to serve as a sponsor for this year’s event, is encouraged to contact the Main Street Program Office at 770-228-5356. The next planning meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2009 in the Safehouse Coffee Mezzanine at noon. Safehouse Coffee is located directly across from the City Hall Customer Service entrance on Hill Street in Downtown Griffin.

EDUCATION

Curtis Jones announced that Parent University will be postponed until March 2009. This program will allow parents of middle school children to be given education information.

GRIFFIN/SPALDING COUNTY SCHOOLS

Curtis Jones announced six schools have been recognized as Distinguished Title I Schools by the Georgia Department of Education. These schools were presented with monetary awards at the Board of Education meeting January 6, 2009 based on number of years they have consecutively made Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) as designated by the No Child Left Behind Law. These schools are Kennedy Road Middle School, Jackson Road, Orrs, Atkinson, Moore and Anne Street.

Fannie Delaney has been named Chairman of the Board of Education; Pete Graham will serve as Vice Chairman.

Lastly, the Board of Education has begun its search for a new superintendant, as Dr. Jesse Bradley will retire in 2009. The process is expected to take approximately 5 months. There is a survey on their website, www.gscs.org, for the public to fill out, determining what criteria should be used for this selection.

PIE

Curtis Jones announced the Griffin/Spalding Education Foundation received a Georgia School Public Relations Association Gold Award of Excellence for its image/identity package.

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA – GRIFFIN CAMPUS

Be-Atrice Cunningham announced the campus held its fall graduation on December 18, 2008, with 9 graduates.

New student orientation was held on January 7, 2009 with 33 new students attending. Currently, 180 students are enrolled, up from 100 last year.

The campus is looking for volunteers for the Math & Parent Partnership program. This program includes students from Anne Street, Orrs, Cowan Road and Atkinson Elementary Schools. The focus for this is to pair students and parents with volunteers and play math games and other math activities.

LEADERSHIP

Bonnie Pfrogner announced applications are being taken at this time; anyone interested should contact the Chamber of Commerce. Classes will begin February 15, 2009.

SPALDING COUNTY COLLABORATIVE

Tina Grubbs reminded everyone the Faith Based Summit for Prevent Child Abuse Georgia at the UGA Griffin Campus. The summit is meant to raise awareness about the issue of child maltreatment and ways faith leaders can help build protective factors that lead to healthy children, families and communities. Participants will attend educational workshops, engage in facilitated dialogue, network with peers and learn about community resources. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$15 and includes lunch and conference materials. Registration increases to \$25 after January 16, 2009

SMALL BUSINESS

Bonnie Pfrogner reported the committee met January 7, 2009 to finalize plans for the Power Partners Expo to be held Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at Griffin Technical College from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. A panel of entrepreneurs will be available for discussion, then time for participants to visit with vendors.

The LEAF committee will use remaining grant money received for the Expo and Maximum Marketing to print a brochure outlining the process for opening a business in Spalding County. This brochure will be available at banks, the Welcome Center, City Hall and other strategic locations.

CITY OF GRIFFIN

Virginia Martin announced the City of Griffin has hired a new Electric Director, Bill Bosch, from Cherokee County.

Griffin City Fire Department has been approved for grant money to be used for a new fire engine. The first City Commission meeting of the year will be held Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at which time the Chairman will be appointed and Board appointments will be made.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Bonnie Pfrogner reminded the Board of the online auction, which will be starting again soon. Donations are always accepted and appreciated.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Parade will be held Monday, January 19, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. The Excellence in Achievement organization is planning this and all groups, businesses and individuals are invited to participate.

The Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday, January 24, 2009. Reservations may be made through Friday, January 16, 2009.

Plans for the STAR Student banquet are underway. More details will be forthcoming. Mayfling plans are also underway. The festival will be held on Saturday, April 25th and Sunday April 26th.

Griffin Technical College would like to have judging for GOAL to be held on March 2nd. Anyone interested in judging should contact the Chamber. Five volunteers are needed.

The Poverty Health Committee for the Partners for a Prosperous Griffin Spalding has merged with the Health Alliance.

Bandag has signed on to be a bronze sponsor with the Chamber.

The Georgia Chamber of Commerce will hold its Eggs & Issues program on February 13, 2009. Tickets cost \$75.00; anyone interested may contact the Chamber for reservations.

The South Metro Development Outlook forum will be held on February 10, 2009. The Chamber will help sponsor this event with 2 reserved seats available.

Lastly, the Chamber Bowling League started on Monday, January 5, 2009 with 5 teams participating. Anyone wishing to participate may contact the Chamber or join us at Magnolia Lanes on Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Stephanie Windham, Chairman