

Astoria Area Chamber of Commerce
August 8, 2002

Pres. Beck called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. at the town library. There were 11 members present and 2 guests.

The treasurer's report showed a current balance of \$2785.99. It was noted one check to Discover was voided and another written for the Easter Egg Hunt. Karen Lowe made the motion to accept the treasurer's report with Beth Price seconding.

A motion to approve the minutes of the June meeting as read was made by Bonnie White and seconded by Kevin Clark.

One of the featured guests for the evening was Pat Hughes from Hughes Accounting. Pat started her presentation by indicating the one thing everyone must do is pay taxes. Pat noted that some people dislike working with numbers and some love working with them. She has always been a member of the later group. She indicated that she entered the working world outside her home when her youngest son entered Jr. High. She has worked for Kenton Shawgo, a bank, and two different accounting firms in Macomb which were all excellent experiences and when the opportunity presented itself to start her own business, she knew the time was right. Her business handles payroll, sales tax, personal income taxes and general bookkeeping needs. She will even go to the home of a client, if the need arises. The address of her business is 220 W. South St. and summer hours are 9:00 – 3:00 Monday through Thursday with Fridays by appointment only. When tax season arrives hours will increase to 6 days a week. The Chamber welcomes Pat and her new business to Astoria.

Kandy Clark gave a short presentation of her extended business located on W. Broadway, KC's Place, Too. This business is an extension of Kandy's hobby of crafts and was born out of necessity. The building was purchased to house a bakery, which is still in the works, hopefully within the next year. Until the bakery becomes a reality, it was decided to open the business, which offers crafts, antiques, housewares and items under consignment. Operating hours are 9:00 – 4:00 Mon. through Fri. and 9:00 – 12:00 on Sat. Stop by KC's Place, Too and see what they have to offer. If interested in consigning items, contact Kandy.

Gary Sheets was happy to announce the ground breaking ceremony for the Habitat for Humanity House will be Saturday, August 10 at 10:00. They received word in July that the house had received a \$20,000 grant from the Lion's Club International. Locally \$10,058 was raised and the county Habitat for Humanity raised an additional \$10,000 for the house. Mike and Dawn Glover and family will be the proud owners of the house and Gary Cameron is site coordinator. The Chamber voted to donate \$50 toward the shirts to be given at the groundbreaking. If you would like to donate time or materials, contact Mr. Cameron.

Karen Lowe, representing the Spoon River Drive, encouraged the Chamber to help support the Drive in Astoria. Ideas will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Committee Reports:

Economic – Astoria Gardens is in the process of seeking the funds needed to start building the assisted living apartments. It was reported that the Federal government has approved the safety signs to be manufactured in the old Fibra Steel building. With this approval, they owners can now apply for loans and get the business started. It was also reported that a business would be starting up in the old Caps Auto Parts building called "Country in the Attic". More info later.

Special Events – Ryan Baker presented the guidelines for the 2nd annual Deer Contest. Check the Chamber website for more information. It was noted that plans for Carriage Night are being finalized with the date being November 22. Any one entering the deer contest will be eligible for a drawing to be held that night also.

Internet Web Page – The domain name has been paid for and the site is again active. It was voted to have Jeff Lasswell be web developer and master. Members are asked to provide Mr. Lasswell with information for your web page on the chamber site. All members web sites will be linked from the chamber site. The Internet committee will be meeting in the near future to help design the site.

Mr. Beck distributed a list of new committees and members as follows:

Retail & Promotion – Kathleen Behymer, Tanya Emmons, Kandy Clark, Bob Stambaugh

Economic Development – Bob Bridges, Ryan Baker, Marty Bair, Barry Beck, Tim Stevens

Cruise Night – Steve Butler, Robert Cameron, Scott Dean, Bob Bridges

Clean-up & Beautification – Karen Lowe, Rita Cassel, Sally Bair, Kandy Clark

Parks & Recreation – Jeff Shawgo, Tim Stevens, Rodney Price, Harley Curless, Kevin Clark, Scott Dean

Public Relations – Bonnie White, Barry Beck, Gary Sheets

Easter Hunt – Angela Blickenstaff, Ruth Swift, Donna Hamblin, Cindy Chaffin, Kay Curless

Breakfast with Santa – Sandy Wittig, Kay Curless, Joannie Morrell, Rosemary Perdew, Beth Price, Tanya Emmons

Web Site – Bonnie White, Nancy Carithers, Marty Bair, Barry Beck, Steve Butler

Steve Butler made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Kandy Clark seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.