

## **Odessa Chamber of Commerce**

### **Minutes of Meeting held March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

The March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Odessa Chamber meeting was held at Chief's Bar and Grill. The flag salute was followed by the reading of the minutes from the pervious meeting and the Treasurer's Report.

President Jerry Schafer began the meeting with a discussion of Deutschesfest finances. Jerry noted that income was down and expenses up for the 2006 event. It was noted that maintenance expenses have increased in past years; these expenses ranging from bench repairs to different painting projects. Entertainment expenses were also discussed, as were the marketing expenses.

Jerry then asked Don Walter to speak on the "This is Odessa" publication that the Chamber sponsors annually for a cost of \$2,200.00. The publication serves as information for people wanting to relocate to the area, highlighting Deutschesfest and other community events. Don mentioned that there have been distribution problems and it would be beneficial to devise a method for the publication to reach other areas. A motion was made and seconded for the Chamber to again sponsor this publication.

Danielle Scrupps, who is the advertising committee for Fest, also spoke about the need for a budget. She also stated that advertising costs had increased last year due to it being a political year. Danielle also noted that most publications in which we advertised in also wrote some type of article regarding Fest.

The conversation then moved to how to attract more visitors to the yearly festival. It was suggested to cater to more RV and German clubs and increase the number of activities during the actual event. Danielle offered to attend the Northwest Festivals and Events Conference in Walla Walla, which offers numerous workshops for representatives of community festivals. A motion was made and seconded to send Danielle to this event and cover her registration, hotel, and food costs.

The ORV committee also gave a brief update; there will be a new annual event in Odessa in October, with the possibility of two more events next year. The October event will go through land owned by Jerry Schafer and Neil Jeske. In conjunction to this event, a spaghetti feed is also being planned.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05.