

Odessa Chamber of Commerce

Minutes of Meeting held October 14th, 2008

The October 14th, 2008 Odessa Chamber meeting was held at Chief's Bar and Grill. The minutes from the previous meeting were read, followed by Melissa giving a treasurer's report of \$67,205 in checking and \$16,267 in savings. She also reported that about three-quarters of the bills were in from Fest and she was showing \$83,255.00 of gross income and expenses so far of \$44,732.00.

Rebecca Maddock then spoke on the behalf of the Friends of the Pool, asking that Chamber again help sponsor their annual Halloween Carnival that will be held on Thursday, October 30th. Melissa Schafer moved to again sponsor the event, with a donation of \$400.00, which was consistent to the amount sponsored last year. Peggy Tracy seconded the motion and the motion was passed.

Ed Hayden gave a short presentation regarding the Small Business Development Program that will be having a nine session conference on October 23rd in the Apex Building at Big Bend Community College.

An update on the Biodiesel facility was given by Danielle Scrupps. She stated that they had their insurance certificate and were getting ready to run 500 to 600 gallons in order to get their critical controls in place.

Ed Hayden of the ORV committee shared an article by Mowry Treadwell on the utilization of the BLM grounds for hiking, etc. Some of the recommendations in the article included working together with other groups to facilitate the project, arranging a cluster of parks, and encouraging tourist from other countries, such as Europe and Asia.

President Jerry Schafer then moved the discussion to Deutschesfest, stating that success with the crowd management personnel had him wondering if the Chamber shouldn't look into an event's manager as well. Jerry stated that he believed an events' manager would be able to increase the entertainment on both Saturday and Sunday. Norm Ott suggested bringing in other communities to increase the workforce, or perhaps hiring someone in the community to oversee activities. The following questions then arose:

Should Chamber be charging food vendors?

Should there be more activities throughout the year to help sustain local businesses?

Could Fest be better used to advertise all other events in Odessa throughout the year such as the Quilt Show, etc.

Chris Brandkamp suggested a brainstorming session for the next Chamber meeting to come up with ideas and put those ideas in writing for the 2009 Deutschesfest.

The meeting was then adjourned.