



**BURMA Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2008**

The meeting was held at A Governor’s Inn and called to order by the president Gene Starr.

- 11 Attending:
- Gene Starr – WVCEE, SCORE
 - Jerry Henderson – A Governor’s Inn
 - Lori Harvey – CVB Director; Personality by Lori
 - Jeff Harvery – JH Consulting
 - Paul & Anne Sterneman – Faith Lodge Bed & Breakfast
 - Angela Errett – Angelic Designs
 - Kay Seinkiewicz – Momselle Maternity Shop & Nana Kay’s Baby Nook
 - Sharyn Coker – Whimsical Treasures
 - Emma Lue Marsh – The Sign Guy LC
 - Steve Foster - UCDA

Introductions

The minutes from August 14, 2008 meeting were e-mailed for review. Gene states minutes stand approved with no objections.

Current Balance is	\$2,377.99
<i>Progressive Bank</i>	\$2,342.43
<i>Petty Cash</i>	\$35.56
Accounts Receivable	0
<i>Pending Members Dues & Calendar Sales</i>	
Outstanding Bills	\$425.00
<i>Joe Pyle</i>	\$400.00
<i>Whimsical Treasures</i>	\$25.00 <i>Certificate Redeemed</i>

Motion to approve treasurer report made by Gene and seconded by Sharyn. Motion approved.

Old Business:

Appraisal Fair:

- Bill received
- At the August meeting it was approved to approach local appraisers for 2009. They will need to be certified to participate.

Red Hatters:

- Will be held at the Armory. A bus will be available at Stockert Youth
- Volunteers needed

- Businesses asked to decorate in red and purple and the flags will be up on Monday before the event.

Website Discussion:

- Agenda added to site
- Consider posting meeting minutes as well

Marketing Plan:

- Handout give of BURMA events, sponsored and co-sponsored events, and projects/events of interest
- Message board calls will be made from this list
- BURMA member events can be added as needed
- Revised events calendar to be posted on website

Under New Business

BURMA Bucks:

- Currently run out in November
- Members to consider options and how to make them more efficient to use with a decision to be made at October meeting

UCDA Response to BURMA Concerns:

- Mr. Foster was offended by the remarks made by BURMA members at the July 2008 meeting. Statement was as follows: *BURMA is disappointed and offended that the director of the Up. Co. Development Authority is not interested in downtown development or downtown businesses.*
- The mission of UCDA is to retain and grow new industries. Mr. Foster will email current mission statement to be sent to members. ***SEE BELOW***
- How UCDA promotes downtown
 - Flower Boxes
 - Mural on Main Street – Donated \$6,000.00
 - Played an integral part in Chase Bank donating land for Farmers Market and UCDA gave money to provide shelters
 - Storm Water Project at Jaw Bone Park – architectural advice from Bryson VanNostrand
 - 2050 Meetings
 - Matching Grants Program
 - Buckston Survey – for retail and match to companies interested
 - Oil & Gas Event in August – Will be held again in 2009
- UCDA efforts are geared to attract more visitors
- Mr. Foster also told members about the Create WV Website: www.createwv.com

Discussion

- Local merchants need to have a voice at UCDA
- Approximately 1 out of 3 buildings downtown are not filled or are professional businesses
- Would like to see more retail business
- Would like to see a grant program that would encourage business

- Would like to know guide lines for current grant program approval
- Industrial businesses do not have the same concerns as the smaller entrepreneurs/merchants who's concerns also affect our local area

Announcements/Comments

Upcoming Events:

Sept. 12-14, 2008 – Red Hatters Convention – Buckhannon
 Sept. 13-14, 2008 – Helvetia Fair – Helvetia
 Sept. 27- Oct. 5, 2008 – Mt. State Forest Festival – Elkins
 Sept. 30, 2008, 6pm – 8pm – Downtown Development Council – 3rd Floor of CJ Maggie's
 Oct. 19, 2008 – Bridal Show – Buckhannon
 Oct. 24-25, 2008 – Quilter's at Heart Guilt Guild Show – Stockert Youth Ctr., Buckhannon

Adjournment:

The next meeting will be at A Governor's Inn on October 2, 2008 at 12:00 Noon. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

From: "Stephen Foster" <foster_se@yahoo.com>
To: "Angelic Designs" <angela@angelicdesigns.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2008 3:06 PM
Subject: UCDA

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Angela: Since you have the email addresses for BURMA members, I am asking you to forward on the UCDA mission statement which reads as follows:
 "The mission of the Upshur County Development Authority is to encourage and assist in the expansion of industries and businesses and recruit new industry and businesses."
 In 2006, a series of meetings was held with city, county, UCDA & community members to look at a community vision and mission statement: That combination vision/mission statement read as follows: "To attract, retain and grow businesses that support a quality of life which incorporates a philosophy of strengthening family resources, builising community pride, and encouraging our youth to puruse careers in Upshur County".

Thanks,
 Stephen E. Foster
 Executive Director
 Upshur County Development Authority
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