

ROANOKE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Minutes of Chamber Board Meeting
August 9, 2007

President Dave Harris called a regular board meeting of the Roanoke Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors, to order at 6:32 a.m. on Thursday August 9, at Joseph Decuis Corporate Offices, Main Street, Roanoke, Indiana. Dave Harris, John Klingenberger, June Ball, Jim Warner, Jodie Hunnicutt, Nancy Weigelt, and Chris Jensen were in attendance. Sherry Rose was a guest attendee.

Dave Harris opened the meeting by asking all attendees to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There was no discussion regarding the July minutes. John Klingenberger motioned to accept the minutes as presented. Jim Warner seconded. Motion passed.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT – DAVE HARRIS – CHAMBER PRESIDENT

Dave reported that an investment group is exploring the possibility of developing a retail operation in Roanoke. As such they would like to preserve the current look and feel of downtown Roanoke. The investors have asked for assistance with searching for any local or state grants, TIF funds, CEDIT funds, and/or low interest financing to assist with their project. They also asked for a copy of Roanoke’s building covenants and economic development plan. The Chamber Board recognizes the significance of developing an economic development plan to assist the future growth of Roanoke.

Dave handed out the monthly activity report for the *discoverroanoke.org* website. Dave reported that the number of website hits is trending up, a map with available commercial space is now available, and he is working on the Top 10 reasons to live and work in Roanoke.

TREASURER’S REPORT

A copy of the Treasurer’s Report for the month of July was distributed along with monthly profit and loss statements. John Klingenberger made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Jim Warner seconded. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee - Jim Warner – Chairperson

1. Jim reported that the Chamber membership is currently at 73 members.
2. Chris Jensen to put together a ribbon cutting process for new businesses in the community.

Farmer’s Market – Dave Harris - Chairperson

Dave reported that “for profit” vendors, with cooked food, need a certificate from the Health Department prior to selling their product.

Taste of Roanoke – Alice Eshelman - Chairperson

Jodie Hunnicutt reported that the Taste of Roanoke event was in the final stages of preparation. The committee is looking for additional food vendors to participate.

Media Relations – June Ball - Chairperson

June reported that the next issue of *Floorboards* will be published in the next two weeks.

It was noted that signs need to be posted, a press release to the paper local papers, and an announcement made at the next Farmer’s Market to advertise the upcoming Taste of Roanoke event.

Planning Committee – Dave Harris – Chairperson

Dave Harris reported that he had met with John Klingenger to discuss the feasibility of creating a Roanoke Strategic Plan. The strategic plan could be a 10 year forward thinking view of the Town of Roanoke. As Chairperson of REDO, John had agreed for REDO to investigate the feasibility of a Roanoke Strategic Plan. As a result, John had contacted Sherry Rose, from the Wabash Valley Electric Coop, to share the basics of a community strategic plan with the Chamber Board. Dave also noted that the REDO Committee serves as a sub-committee to the Roanoke Chamber of Commerce. As such, REDO stands ready to assist the Chamber with matters such as a strategic economic development plan.

REDO – John Klingenger – Chairperson

John Klingenger introduced Sherry Rose from the Wabash Valley Electric Cooperative. Sherry is the Economic Development Director for Wabash Valley Electric. Sherry has worked with numerous local communities and the State of Indiana in regard to economic development.

Sherry Rose presented the following information to the Chamber Board.

1. A strategic plan would help to answer the following question. What unique qualities does the Town of Roanoke possess that sets it apart from any other community in the United States?
2. The biggest challenge in creating a strategic plan is to get all local entities in the community to work together to create a strategic plan. Examples would be representatives from the local school, town government, chamber, local businesses, zoning board, Town Planner, TIF District, large local employers, Community or County Foundations, etc.
3. A non-local facilitator would be required to organize and facilitate the organization and implementation of a strategic plan.

4. A committee of 13 to 15 people would need to be formed to create the Strategic Plan. The committee should be a cross section of all the local entities.

After lengthy discussion, Jim Warner made a motion to direct REDO to create a strategic plan for the Town of Roanoke and to report progress of the plan creation to the Chamber Board on a monthly basis. Furthermore, REDO would utilize the services of Sherry Rose as the facilitator for the development of the strategic plan. Lastly, the Chamber Board would act as the conduit to present the plan to the Roanoke Community. Motion seconded by Chris Jensen. Motion passed.

General Membership Meeting

1. The next general membership meeting was scheduled for September 13th. Sherry Rose from the Wabash Valley Electric Cooperative to be the guest speaker.

NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held Thursday September 13, 2007 at 6:30 a.m. at Joseph Decuis Corporate Offices, Main Street, Roanoke, Indiana.

ADJOURNMENT

Jim Warner made a motion to adjourn. John Klingenberger seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Jensen, Secretary