

**Brownsville Chamber
Monthly Meeting
February 11, 2010**



The February 11, 2010 general meeting was called to order by Mandy Cole. Those present were: John Morrison, Marty Waite, Shawna Hopla, Mandy Cole, Jimmie Lucht, Dave Furtwangler, Jo Ann McQueary, Bridget Sheffler, Kathleen Swayze, Linda Mc Cormack, Natalie Wade, Annie Yokum, Sharon McCoy and Nell Hanft.

Minutes from last meeting were approved.
The treasurer's report was given.

Guest speaker Shawna Hopla talked about the businesses she and her husband Greg have here in Brownsville. Her husband is a 5th generation resident. In 1996 the Hopla's received money from storm damage and that is how the business got started with the old cabin. The old log house on their property dates back to 1850 and they are working with the historical society to document this. The building had been used as a Pony Express, Courthouse and a Bunk House for travelers. The Hoplas plan to have a Dinner Club with a Dinner show now in the works that will tell the story of Kirks Ferry. The name in fact is going to Kirks Ferry. The food featured will be reminiscent of food from the 1800's. This building is actual living history of Brownsville, and the Hopla's plan is to promote Brownsville to the public. Right now the Hopla's are looking for Grants to help them finish this project. The Hopla's also have a business named Swords and Shields. They make items that represent Medieval times such as weapons and clothes for jousting. Local women knit some of the clothes that look like chain mail shirts. The Hopla's have jousting events now and they are looking for a piece of property for a permanent jousting event.

Linda Mc Cormack reported on the Stand by Me event that will take place in July. This year is the 25th anniversary of filming the movie here in Brownsville and Linda expects this year to be bigger than last year. She states there are some money issues with bringing back the Major League Eaters for a Blueberry Pie eating contest. Also money issues to show the movie in the Park again. She is trying to decide if it would be cost effective to rent the projector and screen from a company in Portland or try to buy or use on loan the equipment. In 2007 there was around 500 people who watched the movie in the park and this year she expects it to grow. Mrs. McCormick has contacted the Volkswalkers and asked them to start an annual walk to be held during the Stand by Me event. Also she is planning to have a DJ to announce during the day all the events as they happen. The Art Assoc is working to design a new T-shirt for this year.

Dave Furtwangler mentioned there was an article in the Democrat Herald by the AVA mentioning the Storytelling Event on Saturday night. Tickets are available at the City Hall, Museum and some local businesses. Mrs. Wade asks about a storytelling event at the Brownsville Saloon.

Mrs. Cole brought up the idea that our phone possibly be transferred to the AVA. The Chamber is in a new relationship with AVA and the hopes are to promote regional and local marketing.

The Chamber plans to reach out to local organizations about the Events Sign downtown, to explain the sign and involve businesses.

Scenic Byway needs a representative from the Chamber. Most of the planning happens in Sweet Home at their meeting once a month. It would involve the tour they have annually. Annie Yokum is a massage

therapist, new to Naturally Thoughtful. Her plan is to start an educational resource by starting programs to teach natural healing.

Kathleen Swayze will ask the Rec Center about the tables they have and see if they are interested in selling them. The Chamber may have an interest in purchasing them.

Don Ware mentioned that the Welcome Wagon needs a new helper.

The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting will be the 2nd Thursday of March, and the Executive Meeting will be the 1st Friday of March.