

**Willow Chamber of Commerce Dinner Meeting  
October 4, 2007  
Willow Trading Post – 19 present**

6:00 p.m. Dinner Hour

7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President, Jim Huston.

The **secretary's minutes** were read by Karen Mattson, Secretary. They were approved as corrected.

The Treasurer was absent – Jim Huston gave a summary of accounts totaling \$9,276.00.

**President's Report**

1. Guest were introduced
  - a. Owners and operators of the new "McKinley View Deli, Katie and Char spoke about their hours of business and specialty menu.
  - b. Guest speakers Nalinda Irvine from the Small Business Administration and Silvia Reyes from Key Bank
  - c. Ted Barry, owner of "Birch Grove Farms". His nursery stock was ready for transplanting. He has roses, Siberian Ash and lots of other hardy varieties.

Nalina Irvine gave a power point presentation on the SBA Programs and Services, including a variety of loans available for the small business. Handouts were passed out.

Silvia Reyes, Relationship Manager at Key Bank spoke on the initial steps and processes of loan applications. Once approved by the bank, the loan is sent to SBA for final approval.

**Old Business**

The By-laws Committee received copies of the current by-laws. Plans will be made for a meeting.

President Jim gave a synopsis of the DOT and Rail Corridor meeting. More meetings are forthcoming. On October 24, there will be another public meeting at the Willow Community Center for questions and public input. The Willow Chamber of Commerce will attend this meeting and voice our opinion. WCC voted to be in favor of the Westerly route if concerns of trails, streams, etc. are met and everything is environmentally safe. He would also like to see a train station included in the plans for Willow.

Bike trails – claims to have no money in the budget.

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**Oct. 4 WCC Meeting**

**New Business**

1. Do we want to hold the Ice Golf Tournament in 2008? Jim Norcross moved

**“We pursue another Ice Golf Tournament for 2008”. It was seconded and passed unanimously.**

2. Chuck from the Dump would like to see a new project for WCC and that is to have Iditarod Musers autograph cow bells and we sell them as a fund raiser.

3.

**Tony DeLucia moved “to research a cow bell fundraiser with Iditarod and have local artists decorate them and have them autographed by the mushers” It was seconded and passed.** There was concern among the group on how the ringing of the bells would affect the dogs.

Next meeting will be on December 6<sup>th</sup> and it will be a Christmas party. More details to be announced.

Announcements:

Flu shots are available at the Willow Library on Wednesday, October 10 from 11-2.

Karen announced a “mini” art show will be held at The Gallery in Palmer on Friday, October 12 with 39 artists participating and showing original mini paintings.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Karen Mattson, Secretary