

*[Granite Falls Chamber of Commerce  
Minutes of the General Business Meeting  
January 25, 2011*

**Call to Order:**

In the absence of president, Jim Kapelke, the meeting was called to order by vice president Dr. Nita Bishop at 8:10am.

**Introductions:**

The meeting was well attended, with 18 members present. Members introduced themselves and gave a no cost, short promotional on their respective businesses. At the next meeting to be held February 8, each business present will be allowed to purchase a \$1./1 minute slot to pitch their business.

**Guest Presenter:**

Chief Dennis Taylor was the featured speaker and addressed the membership regarding Crime Prevention in the home, community and workplace. The Chief spoke about the loss prevention program and merchant theft reporting program sponsored by the police department. He has been approached by citizens, requesting information about crime prevention lectures and the evaluation of security methods. He spoke about the available analysis of commercial property and the usefulness of various alarms. He also spoke about data security, including password protection of various devices. He is available to meet with business owners to review their needs. Business owners can call the police station to schedule an appointment. It is his intention to have an officer attend Chamber meetings on a regular basis. Dealing with unwanted persons on business property was discussed. It is most effective to have a trespass letter available to advise such persons to vacate the premises and not return. Mike Trask will provide the letter he uses as a sample to other businesses. Chief Taylor provided a sample of their crime prevention handouts. He will make copies available by e-mail to [info@granitefallswa.com](mailto:info@granitefallswa.com), for distribution to members.

During the question and answer segment, he discussed the reasons for increases in crime, including economic influence. Factors involved in crime include the perpetrator having the means, motive, and opportunity. Most often laziness, greed and drug addiction are factors. The most frequent incidences of crime occur while homeowners are at work during the day. Commercial crime happens mostly at night. Rarely does harm come to the victims.

The largest occurrence of crime is employer theft. Several examples were given, including \$1 million embezzlement at Tulalip Casino. Vandalism, malicious mischief and trespassing are frequent problems with school-aged kids.

The existing police department building is in the process of being converted to a youth activity center, with estimated completion scheduled around August, 2011. The police department will be moving to facilities located at the old high school, where remodeling is underway. The Chief currently has a "Lunch with the Chief" program to encourage youth interest and participation. The kids are receptive and eager to be involved. The Chief is in the process of developing a blog titled, "Lights and Sirens".

The issue of intimidation and bullying was discussed and the question arose as to whether or not the department had counselors available to interact with the kids; it does not currently have such a program. The department intends to sponsor and participate in a 2011 Night out Against Crime. Officer Don Lauer will be participating in a grant writing seminar to secure funds for expanded community services.

Appreciation was expressed by the membership for his significant personal investment in Granite Falls, as well as his attendance and participation in the meeting.

**Committees:**

**Flicks at the Falls:**

The dates for Flicks at the Falls were discussed with June 25, July 8 and August 13 being scheduled for the movies. With the close proximity of summer solstice to the June 25 movie, it was decided it would be best to schedule a short movie. The selection of movies will be reviewed and put out to the membership for a vote. Jeanenne will prepare a letter to merchants, requesting sponsorship, including Verizon, Frontier, Comcast, IGA and FSX. The estimated cost is \$2000.

**Mountain Loop Experience:**

A chairperson has yet to make themselves known for the event. Perhaps a chairperson from outside of the Chamber membership might be needed. It was suggested that individuals be approached rather than waiting for someone to volunteer. The carnival has been scheduled. Various other events and activities were discussed briefly.

**One Day/City Wide Cleanup/Recycle/Replanting/Earth Day:**

Sherri and Ruth volunteered to co-chair this event. The tentative date was set for the 3rd Saturday in June to prepare for MLE. Father's House, Granite Falls Coalition, the Morman Church, the Chamber and many businesses and residents participated in the events last year. Sherri talked with Pastor Jim at Father's House and they are eager to participate. Robin suggested contacting the high school basketball coach again this year for the three on three hoop fest. They were instrumental in cleaning up, painting and landscaping the area where the event was held. The Chamber' insurance umbrella will be reviewed to determine the cost of liability coverage.

**Economic Development Summit:**

Chairperson - To be announced. Several members of the board attended the Council workshop on January 12. It was agreed between the board, the mayor and the city Council to have a planning workshop on February 9. Business license procedures, Granite Falls signage, development of light industrial areas in 2012-2015 and incentives to new businesses were suggested as topics for the agenda. A format of problem identification and solution was suggested. Mayor Saleem committed to contact businesses to encourage participation. He will consider carefully a facilitator for the event

**2011 Open House:**

Chairperson – Trisha Broughton. The activities of the planning committee were discussed. The invitations have been e-mailed as well as mailed via US Post Office. The food committee, decorations committee, raffle and drawing committee are all on target with their assigned functions.

**New Business:**

A program sponsored by Snohomish County tourism was presented and discussed by Cecil. It involves a scavenger hunt promoting tourism. Each month will have a theme to attract specific businesses as well as tourists, visitors and the local community to the event. The themes are: February culinary, March attractions, April sports and recreation, May history. For more information, visit the website [www.tourismreveal.com](http://www.tourismreveal.com)

**Treasurer's Report:**

Financial reports were presented by Jeanenne and accepted as submitted. There is no change since the last report distributed on January 11, 2011. The General Account has a balance of \$8,040; the Railroad Days Account has a balance of \$13,867; the Paypal Account has a balance of \$483. A bill was sent to IGA for shirts.

**Business Feature Drawing:**

In lieu of a drawing for the Chambers business feature for March, it was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to feature Café at the Falls, in an effort to support Tiana's involvement and commitment to the Chamber's February 12<sup>th</sup> Open House.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm. The next general membership meeting will be held at the Alfy's on 2/8/2011 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trisha Broughton, Secretary