

Community Improvement of Algoma Business Forum

Wednesday, May 2, 2019

Boat Club



www.algomaciofa.org/

CI of Algoma Board Members: Paula Levy, Ann Schmitz, Sue Hepp, Merle Colburn, Nicole Meverden, Craig Peterman; Absent: Bob Kuhn

Non-Board Members: Jan Dart, Tom Levy, Mitch Groessl

Business Owners/Managers: Cathy and John Pabich, Lynn Truckey, Dawn Dachelet, Rebecca Charles, Karen Newquist, Kristine Ruehl, Aric Schmiling, Brad Schmiling, Sara Krouse, Tina Marie, Stan, Deborah Kiedrowski, Sue Hass, and Jim Rabas.

Facilitator: Claire Thompson, UW – Extension

Levy opened the forum explaining why the business owners were invited to the forum. She stated that the board wanted their input as to what their ideas and improvements would be and where monies should be spent. Board members were introduced to the business owners/managers.

Thompson suggested three items for focus:

1. Short-term projects
2. Larger, long-term projects
3. How should the organization evolve? What is its place?

Short Term Projects:

1. **Murals** – much discussion evolved regarding maintenance of the same. Many are in much needed repair/touch-up. It was suggested possibly to do one mural per year as there is not enough funds to do them all. Truckey was not in favor of just doing one; some are in really bad shape (*Net Company mural on Second Hand Rose building*). The repair work needs to be done by someone who knows what they are doing. Rabas had contacted Dave Petry for a bid; however, he has not heard from him. Other suggestions: interested high school students with supervision, find a painter using a painter's database, and Mark Stoddard, a Green Bay artist. The CI of Algoma Board will follow up on this project.
2. **Focus on downtown businesses** (*vacant and uninviting store fronts*), beach, youth club...
What are some areas that need improvement or additions? How do we fund the same?
 - a. Sidewalk repair (*downtown*)
 - i. Have a clean, beautiful, vibrant, and interesting downtown area
 1. Private and public commitment
 - b. Sidewalk from Chamber to the Fire/Rescue Department Memorial
 - c. Activities/Entertainment on Beach
 - d. Add more benches to downtown business district
 - e. Erect a band stand in Legion Park (*outdoor music venue*)
 - f. Look into facade grants
 - g. Other grants

Long Term Projects:

1. **Community Center** (*renovation of Knutson Hall/Youth Club*)
 - a. Is the Youth Club a historic building? (*Leon Raether would know*)
 - b. Kewaunee has Lakehaven Hall; it would be nice if Algoma had a community center
 - i. Corporate meetings, banquets, weddings, class reunions, etc.

- c. Schmiling (*Brad*) indicated that he was involved with a public feedback session in 2013. It was held to find out what the public wanted to see in upgrades for the youth club. (*see attached*)
- d. Groessel commented that to replace the Fire Dept. roof would cost between \$250,000 - \$300,000.
- e. Have listening session with other organizations
 - i. Suggestion: each organization contribute \$10,000 – job would get done
 - ii. Have a Master Plan and chip away at it!

2. River Walk

- a. Krouse had this on her wish list

3. Even though a Marine Sanctuary isn't in the future, the shipwrecks should be marketed

- a. Press releases
- b. Advertisement to divers

4. Tout the Recreational Fishing

- a. Diving for shipwrecks

5. Lighthouse Tours

How Should Organization Evolve?

1. Communication

- a. This is key for any organization
- b. Perhaps a part-time person should be hired

2. More events and things that bring people to Algoma

- a. Have a Maxwell Street Day
- b. Midnight Madness
- c. Other

3. Be more cohesive

- a. Mainstream organizations (*too many/too many meetings*)

4. Be aware of other organizations and support them

5. Master calendar (*Chamber*)

Focus:

- 1. Bring in more events (*bring in more people*)
- 2. Projects (*to do list*)
- 3. Capital Improvements