



March 15, 2005 Meeting Minutes

The March meeting was held at the Gruene River Grill. Ron Hamel, President, opened the meeting. Clifton Stapleton, Vice President, recognized Guests, Jeannette Munoz and Gary Leonard from Checks In The Mail and Ruby Krebs from host company Centerpoint Energy.

Scott Doyle provided a brief but thorough update on the Host company Centerpoint Energy. The most important point made was that natural gas may lag, but generally trends with oil prices which is currently running at \$54 per barrel.

The minutes from the last meeting were presented for approval. Steve Goodrich moved to accept the minutes as presented and George Bal seconded.

Quest Daniel provided a committee report on the Membership and Marketing Committee. Research is being conducted and the committee will meet next Thursday at the Live Oak Grill.

Henry Hahn reported that the Education, Training & Development Committee has not met, yet, but that there are seminars in San Antonio. If anyone is interested, see Henry for details.

Al Ranzau reported that the Scholarship Committee established an April 8, 2005, deadline for submission of scholarship applications with an intended announcement date of May 2, 2005. The committee intends to provide a minimum of four (4) scholarships to students attending the CTTC.

Ron Hamel introduced the topic of a currently proposed city ordinance that would require manufacturers to plant a tree for every 8 parking spaces of new parking lots visible from the street. There was a great deal of discussion on this topic and Paula Di Fonzo gave insight to the discussions held by the committee making this recommendation to the City Council.

Clifton Stapleton introduced Ms. Paula Di Fonzo as the guest speaker for today's meeting. Paula provided insight into the inner workings of NBU and the many responsibilities for the utilities. The challenges of providing a variety of utilities for a rapidly growing population were discussed. Vegetation removal and trimming are part of NBU's responsibilities which is labor intensive and thus, costly. Pole replacement equals reliability for electrical service. Thirty (30) acres have been acquired for a new waste-water treatment plant.

Rusty Brockman provided an update on CTTC, informing us that Human Resources training will be conducted on 3 Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ashley Furniture will be establishing a Distribution Center in New Braunfels, bringing approximately 300 new jobs to the area.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2005, at Newk's Tennis Ranch. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Chuck Pinto, New Braunfels City Manager.

Respectfully submitted: Arnold J. Cardenas, Secretary/Treasurer