



December 15, 2009 Meeting Minutes

***Opening & Introductions:***

The December meeting was held at Honors Hall. Al Ranzou opened the meeting by welcoming members and guests.

Members present were: Alamo Worksource, Cemex, CTTC, Comal ISD, Detex, EH Systems, Fed-Ex Services, Great American Products, Hawkins Personnel, JBPrice, NB Chamber, NB Herald-Zeitung, NBU, Priority Personnel, Star Manufacturing, Symons, The Coach Approach and VIP Staffing

Guests present were GK Peel.

***Officer Reports:***

Al discussed the up coming officer elections in January.

Paul provided an update on the financial status.

NBMA has voted and approved to fund \$3000 towards the production of the Manufacturing promotional video with the Chamber of Commerce.

***Committee Reports:***

Scholarship: Waiting for applications for next year.

***Featured Program:***

Doug Toney from the NB Herald Zeitung was the featured speaker.

Doug gave a brief history of the newspaper. He said that the newspaper reports facts. It is an individual's personal responsibility to determine the truth. Truth and facts are not synonymous.

Doug talked about the misinformation given by city manager at the last NBMA meeting regarding the Seguin St. Overpass. Mr. Morrison indicated that the city would not be required to pay back the millions spent by TxDot on the planning if the city decided not to pursue widening Seguin St. Doug said that he talked with TxDot and that the city would liable for the charges. Doug wrote an editorial about this topic.

Doug talked about another editorial he wrote about term limits. The city council has been discussing suspending term limits. However, term limits keep the city staff and management focused on the city's needs. Suspending term limits will curtail progress and fresh ideas.

Doug talked about how the current city staff seems concerned on image rather than substance. Hundreds of hours and funds have been spent on downtown's image. The Historic Preservation group is trying to block the overpass project due to "historic image". The group also asked Producers Coop and ADM to move because it doesn't fit the "image" of downtown. However, both of these companies are an historical component of the city. Doug said that this is hypocritical and disingenuous. The Historical Preservation group is trying to make downtown look cute rather than really be historical.

Doug summed up his discussion by telling the manufacturers that we need to be aware of the issue of "controlled vision" and how our companies may not fit in the city's image. NBMA needs to speak out about these issues and reaffirm out importance to the community in terms of employment and growth.

***Next Meeting:***

The next meeting will be held at 11:45am on January19, 2010 at Honors Hall. The program is the annual NBMA business meeting and officer elections.

Respectfully submitted:  
Paul Webber  
NBMA Secretary/Treasurer 2009