

## MEETING OF OCTOBER 30, 2007

### Minutes of Meeting of Oct. 23, 2007

- ✓ President Freddy Walter presided over the meeting.
- ✓ Richard Topp offered the invocation.
- ✓ Dan Kibodeaux led the Club in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- ✓ Thanks to Tom Potter and Tina Ignatiev for serving as our Greeters today.
- ✓ Kris King welcomed guests including:
  - Amy Spears was a guest of Freddy Walker.
  - Harold Nicholson was a guest of Johnny Stevens.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Freddy recognized Todd Bradley for orchestrating the golf tournament. Todd thanked the participants and will report on collections and sponsors next meeting.
2. Bennie was called to introduce the Hattiesburg City of the Quarter Employee as Andrew Housely.. With him today are his fellow workers Teresa Williams and Johnny Stanford. Andrew Housely received this recognition for his loyalty and hard work. He has worked for the city for twenty-seven years beginning as a Crew Member. Despite ill weather conditions, Andrew always showed up. If city workers were needed on weekends or in the middle of the night, Andrew was there. He has recently been promoted to Division Manager. Housely was presented with a certificate signed by the mayor and dinner for two at Crescent City Grill from the Rotary Club.
3. Freddy reminded members to mark the date of **December 11 for the Christmas party**. The District Convention will be held **April 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>**. He also reminded members that the club be holding a White Day on the first Tuesday in December. Members are encouraged to bake a cake and bring it for sale that day. Proceeds will go to the Rotary Foundation.

4. Freddy called forward Maura McLaughlin to announce the 2008 Night in Italy. Maura reported that the planning committee had met this past Friday, and April 22<sup>nd</sup> seems to be fast approaching. For the past several years, James Duncan has cooked for the Night in Italy, but this past year there were no other volunteers to cook. Maura asked for four volunteers to commit to helping cook. Mike Ratliff, Chris Strebeck, Richard Topp, and Dan Kibodeaux volunteered to cook for the Night in Italy.

## LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Kris King introduced Bennie Sellers, Public Services Director for the City of Hattiesburg, as speaker, who won the Mississippi City Engineer Award for 2002-2004.

Bennie first remarked that Hattiesburg has changed over the past years tremendously. There are three primary areas of responsibility under Bennie's supervision: wastewater, water supply (potable and for use against fires), and transportation. Transportation has always been the biggest issue.

Hattiesburg has recently been approved to treat almost double the amount of wastewater. Katrina knocked out 50% of our treatment facilities, but as of this month, our facilities are running at their normal capabilities. Now we are back in compliance with MDEQ, and capable of producing more than enough potable water.

Building roads costs \$2 million to \$5 million per mile. It is said, "If you build it, they will come," but that is the dilemma. According to Bennie, our city does not want to gamble with taxpayers' money. The City Public Services Department has been working with other government entities to identify a strategy for building roads where they will be most beneficial. The current construction on Hardy St has been supported entirely by MDOT. They plan to add a lane to the north side of Hardy St starting at 21<sup>st</sup> Ave, creating a left turn lane. All city lights down Hardy Street in the construction area will be

connected by fiber optic cables which will help synchronize them, thus increasing the flow of traffic. MDOT has several other projects planned to improve traffic on Hardy.

Public Services plans to widen West 4<sup>th</sup> Street to three lanes. The Rails to Trails project will extend the trail from the USM depot down North Mamie (using some widened sidewalks) by the end of 2008. The eventual goal is to have the trail extended to the downtown Train Depot. Construction methods are currently being discussed. The idea of an elevated railroad crossing for the trail has been eliminated due to handicapped accessibility requirements.

The forty-five acres left by former mayor, Bobby Chain, designated for the use of recreation, has become Chain Park. The park will include lighted walking trails and covered picnic areas. This project will be funded 80% by the Federal government and 20% by the city.

The year after Katrina, no street repairs were made because of the effort to simply clear the streets of debris. FEMA has recently responded that they will give financial support for the repair of two roads. MDOT's goal is to repave thirty-five miles per year on well-trafficked roads. This will create a ten year cycle. Roads like Hardy St and Lincoln Road would be repaired every seven to ten years while residential roads which suffer less abuse would be repaired as needed.

Bennie is convinced of the importance of good roads and less congestion to the influx of new business in our area. Hattiesburg has recently seen growth to the South, North, and West. There is no room to grow on the East because of the river. There are currently fifteen new subdivisions under construction and 4,000 apartment units coming soon to the Hattiesburg area.

### **THOSE WHO CAN'T TAKE DIRECTIONS GRACIOUSLY HAVE NO BUSINESS GIVING THEM.**

If you are an irresponsible or argumentative worker who cannot accept instructions from others, you are destined to remain at the bottom of the workforce. Before you can ever hope to manage other people, you must learn to manage yourself and your relationships with others effectively, particularly with those in higher positions in the organization. Unless you can learn how to manage your relationship with your own boss or bosses, you will never be able to manage a relationship with your subordinates.

### **The Napoleon Hill Foundation**

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