

Micro Credit Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2006

Attendees: Eric Lang
Lise Grondin-Danault
Joyce Presby
Suzanne French

Derik Brasher
Jackie Hawkins
Keith Lynch
Laura Lynch

Excused: Eric Catman, Normand Lettre.

Eric Lang reported that our checking account can't be opened with out a \$100.00 deposit. Membership balance to date is \$75.00.

Eric discussed importance of the Micro Credit book material ie., P/L, Balance Sheet, etc. Eric will supply the group with a copy of a form he derived from the book information used for his customers which explains Profit/Loss.

Eric informed the group that the Discover Card offers a free website service to their customers. The first month and set up are free and the fee is \$60 per month after that. There are 4 pages to the website and you have control to change any information on your website. Discover also gives you ½ hour free consultation by a professional website master. Eric can forward website information.

“PrePaid Legal”, is an organization that supplies general legal help at lower prices. They are scheduled to give a presentation in Littleton on March 24 at the Community House. This meeting has not yet been confirmed. Further notice will be posted.

Joyce explained to the group the particulars of applying for a Loan from Micro Credit, what happens should a member who took out a loan defaults and the measures that need to take place as a result.

Joyce discussed the particulars of the IDA Savings Plan (grant savings program) based on family income eligibility. She will bring in the documentation to the next meeting.

Joyce provided the group with literature named “Business Development Group Packet” discussing group structure as well as meeting etiquette. These skills if practiced “spill” into your business habits.

The last month's meeting minutes were read and accepted. Keith and Laura Lynch asked about joining the group.

The networking event was brought up. The group agreed that September may be a better month to hold the event. The group would need to prep for the event individually as well as a corporally. Joyce has some reading material regarding "Craft Show/Trade Show" set up and will bring it to the next meeting. She mentioned that Micro Credit does provide very good marketing for events. Joyce will bring in a Public Relations person to discuss marketing with the group for the event. This event could draw attention locally to the importance of Micro Credit for others in the area considering starting up new businesses.

For prep, Keith Lynch mentioned that Vista Prints.com is a good resource for printing business cards at a low price with no shipping, using your own logo. Joyce cautioned to beware of the small print when you sign on.

Location for the event was discussed; the T & C, Jackie will speak to Scott Labnon about getting a "non-profit" discounted rate for the use of the Shelburne Room. The Chalet was an option as well as the Tech. Keith mentioned there may be no rental charge for the Tech. If the group is charged a rental fee for a room, there would be a "table" charge for participating networking businesses at the event to cover any costs involved with the show, maybe \$10. This charge may reinforce the invited entrepreneur to commit to the event. Joyce pointed out that the group would need to have a person host the event and help with the logistics of placing people who walk through the doors; this is what Micro Credit would ask of the group.

Keith pointed out that we need an outline for the event. The group agreed that we need to find out who wants to participate in the event and put invitations together. Joyce will do the inviting once we have a date.

Keith and Laura Lynch offered to do a website for the event featuring each business. Also, the Lynchs have offered reduced website publishing rates for our group members.

Lise Grondin-Danault will be the facilitator for our next meeting. Minutes will be sent to group members within 48hrs. of the meeting. Joyce and Lise will meet prior to the meeting to put together the agenda.

Homework on Marketing, chapters 6 through 10 is on marketing. Joyce pointed out that you need to do a marketing plan from the brochure as part of the IDA account information.

Our next meeting will be held at: Woodlands Credit Union
April 14th, 2006 9 to 11 a.m.