



The MBA float-building crew on Nov. 21, 2016. Photo by Kathy Hunstad.



## Monthly Newsletter December 2016

### NOVEMBER NEW MEMBERS

Gustafson Law

### RENEWING MEMBERS

Farmstead Care  
Kovash Marine  
Minnesota State  
Community and Technical  
College

### MESSAGE FROM BOARD PRESIDENT ANNA HANSON



As we face the end of another year, I want to extend my gratitude to those who have worked diligently to support the Moorhead Business Association, giving generously of their time and resources. This has been an especially great year, demonstrating amazing dedication to the community. It seems like an appropriate time to thank the amazing business leaders in this great organization that have dedicated time to improving the business community around us and the well-being of others. We know that we are far from done and that we still need to give back, volunteer, and acknowledge what more we have to do. Let's be grateful for our blessings and not forget to reach out to others who may be in need of our friendship, time, and sincerity. Happy Holidays!

"The Moorhead Business Association also should have a shout-out. It has become an extremely positive force, vital to the city."

– Jim Haney, quoted in The Extra (Nov. 17 edition)

## **"Let's Talk Business" Highlights**

### **WARD 1 CANDIDATE FORUM**

On Nov. 2 our meeting was a candidate forum for Moorhead City Council Ward 1. Participants Sara Watson Curry, Cory Emerson, Raymond Schultz, and Jim Steen discussed issues including how to create business opportunities in Moorhead, whether property taxes are at appropriate levels, whether and how Moorhead should re-create its downtown, and the MN-DNR diversion decision.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT MOORHEAD**

On Nov. 9, Cindy Graffeo gave us an update on the EDA's projects and plans. Six parcels in the Industrial Park have recently sold, and the Grove Project on 1st Avenue is moving forward (with the possibility of a mixed-use building). In coming months, Moorhead college students will research the feasibility of a business incubation center (entrepreneurial support), the land parcel on 8<sup>th</sup> St. and Main will be redeveloped, and \$250,000 will be available as interest-free small business loans.

### **WHAT MAKES A GOOD DOWNTOWN?**

On Nov. 16, Mike Allmendinger from the Kilbourne Group spoke about a variety of projects they're working on in downtown Fargo for walkable, mixed-use infill. He discussed the importance of maintaining the heritage of Fargo by renovating historic downtown buildings and maximizing land use with good public infrastructure, and also discussed the importance of community buy-in and engagement.

### **NEWS FROM CONCORDIA**

On Nov. 23 we heard from Sara Johnson and Karl Stumo from Concordia. Karl spoke about construction updates, new and improved academic programs, the institution of a 4-year graduation guarantee, tuition and financial aid options, and a required internship or similar experience. Sara spoke about some of the more specific ways they're working to connect students with prospective employers in the area.

### **BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS**

On Nov. 30, Susan Smith and Rachel Andersen-Peterson discussed the two programs of Big Brothers Big Sisters: one-on-one relationship formation and their newer school-based program (which includes Robert Asp in Moorhead). They are always happy to have "big" volunteers, especially men, and sponsors for their group activities.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **"Let's Talk Business" Speakers**

Dec. 7: Adam Martin, F5  
Project

Dec. 14: Pete Christopher,  
Lake Agassiz Region Habitat  
for Humanity

Dec. 21 and 28: TBD

### **Frostival Jan. 27-28**

The MBA has two ways for your business to get involved in the January 2017 Frostival: a snow sculpture contest (taking place Jan. 28) and a restaurant passport challenge (taking place Jan. 20-28). For more information, contact Gwen Hoberg or David Hunstad.

**560 Connect will not meet in December or January. Please stay tuned for its return in February!**