

We Gladly Suffer Opinions at GCED

When you work for a local Chamber of Commerce, you get to hear a lot of opinions. While some people may not appreciate this aspect of the job, we actually look forward to hearing what people think. Now, before we get to far into this, we should also give the disclaimer that we don't always agree with the opinions we hear, but we do value the fact that people care enough to express themselves.



When making decisions, one of the best things a person can possess is information. Knowledge of whatever subject matter you are considering will greatly enhance the chances of making the best possible choice. Chambers of Commerce, from their inception have strived to be centers of information. We are constantly communicating with local business leaders, elected officials, front line staff, and the general public. Sometimes our messages are one way (i.e. we share information). Sometimes, they are two way conversations that allow us to learn and grow our understanding of any particular subject or issue.

Through this process of communication, we try to position ourselves to make good recommendations, referrals, etc. We want to be as prepared as possible to help our members or our community when an opportunity presents itself. Nevertheless, even with all of that effort, we sometimes make mistakes. Just like any individual or organization, despite our best effort, we screw up from time to time. When we do, we try to make it right. If we can't make it right, we just have to ask forgiveness.

That sentiment in the last paragraph is important, because it brings us back to concept of hearing opinions. When we hear people express opinions and or ideas that to us just do not make sense to us, based on the information we have, we sometimes use that opportunity to educate. Our goal is to share the knowledge we have acquired so that everyone engaged in organizational or civic dialogue can come to the best conclusions possible, regardless of the topic.

Often, in casual conversation, will hear people express what seem to be wonderful ideas. For whatever reason, those ideas too often wither on the vine. We imagine that there are so many more great ideas that never see the light of day. What do we recommend? Don't be afraid to share your thoughts on the direction of this community. It belongs to all of us and we are all entitled to our opinions and ideas. Through conversation, debate, and a little work, the great ideas will hopefully rise to the top. If great ideas are known, and acted upon, we will continue to improve as a community.

Please don't ever hesitate to share your opinions on how to improve the Grimes community with the staff of Grimes Chamber & Economic Development. We may not always agree with you, but we love to have the conversation. If by chance we do agree, perhaps we can work together to make concept reality. If we're going to have an interesting adventure, it might as well be a productive one!

- *Brian Buethe, Executive Director, Grimes Chamber & Economic Development (June 2015)*