

Marion County Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors' Meeting

April 20, 2017

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met at the Western Sizzlin at noon on April 20, 2017. Board members in attendance were President Jamie Lawson, Vice President Joyce Burkhalter, and board members Kathie Tierney, Walker Henley, Patrick O'Hagan, Nick Holcomb, and Vickie Messer.

Others in attendance included Spencer Wayne with Western Sizzlin, Steve Merrrell with Colonial Chemical, Marion County Mayor David Jackson, Kimball Mayor Rex Pesnell, Todd Mistrot with City of Whitwell, Sonya McShan with Erlanger, Garret Fugot with Covenant Allergy, Deanna Stott with Hospice of Chattanooga, Duke Raulston with Sequatchie Valley Head Start, Allison Smith with Trials Training Center, David Riley with Marion Newspapers, Brett DelBalso with Farmers Insurance, Kyle Holland with H&H Mgt, Art Rask with MWK Advisory Services., Sherry Cagle, Joyce Clem, and Susan Merell with TN Department of Health, Richard Lewelling with Cornerstone Ministries, Heather Bearden with Resource Management, Keisha Durham with Platinum Recruiting, and Judy Blevins, administrative assistant for the chamber.

President Jamie Lawson called the meeting to order, recognizing guests and members in attendance.

A motion was made by Vicki Messer and seconded by Joyce Burkhalter to approve the minutes from the March 16, 2017 board meeting. Motion was carried without dissent.

Financial Report:

Judy Blevins presented the "Income and Expense Report" for the month of March 2017, "Income and Expense Report" from beginning of fiscal year through the end of March, and "Account Balances Report" as of April 19, 2017. Copies were distributed to all present and are on file with the minutes.

Old Business:

A. Anti-Littering Campaign

The anti-litter committee composed of Kathie Tierney, Donna Sartin, Andrew Lawrence, Patrick O'Hagan, Jamie Lawson, and Judy Blevins along with Mayor David Jackson, presented two ideas to the board.

1. For the chamber to offer five community grants to the business community, non-profit clubs and organizations. Each grant amount would be up to \$400. An application would have to be submitted by June 30, 2017. The committee would then review the applications and award grants based on projects in keeping with the anti-litter campaign. The committee has approved an application which, if the motion passes, will be sent via chamber email distribution list and in local newspapers. Deadline for spending grant money would be December 31, 2017.

Joyce Burkhalter made a motion which was seconded by Walker Henley to budget up to \$2000.00 for the purpose of awarding no more than five community grants not to exceed \$400.00 each. Projects will be awarded based on information submitted by application. Following discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Nick Holcomb reported that the youth of Refuge Church on Glover's Hill has committed to picking up litter in front of their church and up both sides of the hill from their church to the main highway.

Joyce Burkhalter reported that the Rotary Club is interested in doing something to address the problem of littering. Joyce was appointed chairman and plans to involve students in the Marion County Rotoract Club.

Mayor David Jackson reported that Tennessee-American Water also wants to adopt a stretch of road.

2. For the board to approve for the committee to move forward with an idea to have interested businesses to sponsor an anti-littering newspaper ad. At this time the committee is not asking for the chamber to spend money on an ad but simply to authorize the committee to offer the idea to businesses to see the response. Note that two local businesses have already agreed to sponsor an ad.

Joyce Burkhalter made a motion to allow the committee to go forward with the plan to approach local businesses regarding sponsorship of an ad as described above. Walker Henley seconded the motion which carried without dissent.

Please note that David Riley with Marion Newspapers stated that he would offer the best price he could for a series of ads. He encouraged the committee to contact him when details are available.

Terry Kerlin was invited by Mayor David Jackson to attend the meeting today and to share some of the concerns and ideas Mr. Kerlin has on the subject of litter prevention and control. There followed a lively discussion with group participation. Some highlighted notes:

- Determine a strategy
- Start by learning who picks up what and when – cities, county
- Prioritize and develop a map of where litter is most prevalent
- Educate the public; raise awareness
 - Where to take trash – location, hours
 - Work with school system to involve youth – poster contest for example
 - Billboards – from poster contest and/or other options
- Enforcement – what is the fine for littering and is it enforced

The chamber's anti-litter committee will discuss these ideas at the next committee meeting. Mr. Kerlin will be invited to attend.

New Business:

A. Request for Donations

- a. Marion County Libraries Summer Reading Program – request from the library board was read to the chamber board. No motion was made therefore the request died for lack of motion.
- b. Marion County Fair – request from the Marion County Fair Board was read to the chamber board. Walker Henley made a motion to give \$1,000 to the Marion County Fair 2017. Motion was seconded by Kathie Tierney and was carried by the board without dissent.

B. Membership Application

- a. Farmers Insurance – this is a new business opening in Jasper. The membership committee has reviewed the application and recommends membership. Walker Henley moved that Farmers Insurance be approved for membership. Joyce Burkhalter seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Mayor's Report:

Kimball Mayor Rex Pesnell

Mayor was happy to report that the Easter egg hunt in the park was a great success. For the next two weeks, Kimball will be hosting soccer. The town did a silent bid for the LPRF grant to make enhancements to the park.

Kimball, TDOT, Marion County EMA and South Pittsburg met recently to address traffic issues associated with the National Cornbread Festival. A traffic/parking plan was developed which should lessen the traffic problems experienced last year.

Hope everyone enjoys the 21st National Cornbread Festival scheduled for April 29 and 30 in downtown South Pittsburg.

Marion County Mayor David Jackson

This past Tuesday morning the bids were opened for the next tech building at Chattanooga State Kimball Site. Evans – Ailey Construction was the low bidder. Bid will be confirmed by the Marion County Commission on April 24th. With funds set aside for the building, approximately \$300,000 will still be needed and will probably be taken out of general funds pending the commission's approval.

The dual high school/Chattanooga State enrollment programs are progressing well. Anticipated enrollment will begin with the 2017 fall semester.

Mayor Jackson expressed his pleasure in being asked to sit on a search/advisory committee for the new president of Chattanooga State. Not only does that speak well for the commitment of Chattanooga State to Marion County and the Sequatchie Valley but also allowed Mayor Jackson to network and make good contacts with other members of the selection committee. The four finalists are visiting Chattanooga State this week and next.

Marion County has been invited to apply for a TDEC (TN Department of Environment and Conservation) grant which would be used to put new lighting in the courthouse, courthouse annex, election commission building and the jail and new windows in the courthouse. The Southeast TN Development District will be administering the grant.

The health ranking for Marion County has moved from 76 out of 95 counties to 67 of 95. The mayor says that is a move in the right direction. County residents are encouraged to utilize the gyms, walking tracks and other methods of exercise to continue the trend toward a healthier Marion County.

There is a site visit this afternoon from a prospective new business.

In conclusion, Mayor Jackson expressed regret and condolences to the friends and family of Cheatham County Mayor David McCullough who passed away this morning from complications associated with a recurrence of cancer.

Miscellaneous:

Announcements

Announcements were reviewed as distributed. A copy is on file with the minutes.

Trivia Question

Question: Since 1970, a day has been designated annually to celebrate Earth Day. When is Earth Day 2017?

Answer: Saturday, April 22, 2017.

Winner was Heather Bearden.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Next monthly board meeting will be May 18, 2017 at noon at the Western Sizzlin.

Minutes submitted by Judy Blevins

Reviewed by President Jamie Lawson