

Marion County Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors' Meeting

May 18, 2017

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met at the Western Sizzlin at noon on May 18, 2017. Board members in attendance were President Jamie Lawson, Vice President Joyce Burkhalter, and board members Kathie Tierney, Walker Henley, Patrick O'Hagan, Patty Henry, and Shelby Potterfield.

Others in attendance included Andrew Lawrence with Colonial Chemical, Marion County Mayor David Jackson, City of Whitwell Manager Todd Mistrot, Sonya McShan with Erlanger, Garret Fugot with Covenant Allergy, Deanna Stott with Hospice of Chattanooga, Kyle Holland with H&H Mgt, Art Rask with MWK Advisory Services, 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 Patrick O'Hagan and seconded by Shelby Potterfield to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2017 board meeting. Motion was carried without dissent.

Financial Report:

Judy Blevins presented the "Income and Expense Report" for the month of April 2017, "Income and Expense Report" from beginning of fiscal year through the end of April 2017, and "Account Balances Report" as of May 17, 2017. Copies were distributed to all present and are on file with the minutes.

Old Business:

A. Anti-Littering Campaign

Reporting for the anti-litter committee, Judy Blevins gave the following updates:

- In order to explain the chamber's campaign, Judy is visiting all city and town hall meetings during the month of May.
- One application for a \$400 anti-litter grant has been received. The chamber is offering up to five grants. Deadline to apply is June 30, 2017.
- TN American Water employees picked up litter along Valley View Highway.
- The committee has gathered information about who is responsible for roads in Marion County. City/town roads are the responsibility of the individual community. Litter pick-up on county roads is contracted

through the county litter grant from the state. They pick-up three times a week but hope to increase that to six times a week in the coming fiscal year. Pick-up on state roads in the county is contracted from the state to the Marion County Sheriff's Department.

- The chamber will be offering ad sponsorships to interested businesses. Details will be forthcoming.
- Laura Williams with TDOT's Beautification Program and Litter Grant Education Program, will speak at the June 15th chamber meeting. Everyone is encouraged to attend and to bring a friend.
- It is wise for the chamber to partner with the litter grant program and any other business, organization, or person interested in making a difference.

B. Chamber Website Revision

President Lawson stated that the chamber's website revision will be going live soon with a soft launch date tentatively set for May 24th. Everyone is encouraged to look at the website (dev.marioncountychamber.net) with the understanding that it is still a work in progress. It will be accessible through mobile devices as well as the more conventional laptop and desktop avenues.

New Business:

A. Annual Banquet

President Lawson is seeking interested persons to serve on a committee for the 2017 Annual Banquet. The following persons have already been asked to serve: Kathie Tierney, Karen Radke, Shelby Potterfield, Wendy Barrett, and Patrick O'Hagan. Anyone else interested in joining should contact Mr. Lawson. The committee is asked to meet at the chamber office on May 24th at 4:00 PM.

Mayors' Reports:

Marion County Mayor David Jackson

Mayor Jackson announced that the county website is up and running and can be accessed at www.marioncountyttn.net. The county mayor and commissioners are working on the budget for the coming fiscal year. The county is in good financial shape allowing the tax rate to remain the same. June 16th at 1:00 PM is the tentative date for ground breaking of the manufacturing building at Chattanooga State Kimball.

Marion County along with Bledsoe and Sequatchie Counties received a tourism grant to hire a consultant group for the Sequatchie Valley. The three county mayors are working with Jenni Veal to secure a qualified group.

The county has formed a steering committee to look at the feasibility of a recreational/health center.

Mayor Jackson has been a member of the search committee to find a new president of Chattanooga State Community College. During the search process, members of the committee could not share information with the public. However, now that the selection has been made it can be announced that Dr. Rebecca Ashford will become the new president as of July 1, 2017.

City of Whitwell Manager Todd Mistrot

The City of Whitwell is in the process of revamping the network system and the website. They have a workshop scheduled for tonight to determine if the city wishes to apply for a senior housing grant.

Miscellaneous:

Kathie Tierney brought copies of the new "Sequatchie Valley Welcome Guide" for distribution. Additional copies are available by contacting "The Independent."

Patty Henry announced that SueBob's Diner will be sponsoring the "Second Annual Cruise-In" at Powell's Crossroads October 7th from 2 PM until 6 PM CT. The Town of Powell's Crossroads will also be having a cruise-in on Labor Day.

Kyle Holland mentioned two upcoming events. "Hot Wheels and Move Reels" is scheduled for July 8th in downtown South Pittsburg and The Princess Theater. The cruise-in will be from 12 noon until 5:00 PM CDT with free registration. Free movies at The Princess will be "American Graffiti" at 5:00 PM and "Creature from the Black Lagoon" at 7:15 PM. The second event is the 7th Annual Marion County Christmas for Kids fund raiser sponsored by US Stove on November 4th at Kimball Park.

It was also announced that there is a car show on the square in Jasper on June 11th from 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM CDT. There is a \$20 car entry fee. Proceeds from the car show will go to "Relay for Life".

Patrick O'Hagan announced that the American Job Center (formerly the TN Career Center) will be offering a summer work experience program for ages 18 – 24 yrs. Youth and employers wishing to participate should contact the center.

Joyce Burkhalter reminded everyone that the Marion County Fair began last night and will run through May 21st.

Andrew Lawrence reported that the recent Shred Day at Colonial Chemical was successful. The chamber expressed thanks to Colonial Chemical for allowing the public to bring items to be shredded.

Announcements

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

Trivia Question

Question: What is the physical address of the Marion County Fair Ground?

Answer: 1 Dairy Queen Way in Jasper

Kathie Tierney got close but with help from the internet the winner was Walker Henley.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Next monthly board meeting will be June 15, 2017 at noon at the Western Sizzlin. Next Chamber Coffee will be June 13th, hosted by TN American Water and held at First United Methodist Church in Whitwell.

Minutes submitted by Judy Blevins

Reviewed by President Jamie Lawson