

Marion County Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors' Meeting

February 21, 2019

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met at the Western Sizzlin at noon on February 21, 2019. Board members in attendance were President Kathie Tierney, Erik McDaniel, Joyce Burkhalter, Secretary/Treasurer Shelby Potterfield, Garret Faugot, Nick Holcomb, and Patrick O'Hagan.

Others in attendance were Daniel McDermott with Dan's Handyman Service, Ginger Miller with "JustServe", Tayler Belcher with State of TN Department of Economic and Community Development, Travis Hickman with WEPG, Terry Kerlin with First Choice Storage, and Gene Hargis with Marion County Sheriff's Department.

President Tierney called the meeting to order and thanked those in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Shelby Potterfield and seconded by Patrick O'Hagan to approve the minutes from the January 17, 2019 board meeting. Motion was carried unanimously. Minutes are on file in the chamber office and are posted on the chamber's website.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Shelby Potterfield presented the financial report: "Banking Summary" for the month of January 2019, "Account Balances as of 2/20/19", and "Income/Expense Graph by Category" for the current fiscal year to date. A motion was made by Nick Holcomb and seconded by Garret Faugot to accept the financial report. Motion was carried without dissent. Copies were distributed to all present and are on file with the minutes.

Old Business:

A. Small Business Grants 2019

Patrick O'Hagan, reporting for the grant committee, explained that eleven applications have been received and that the committee is meeting to review the applications following today's board meeting. More information will be announced when the committee completes the review.

B. 2019 Golf Tournament

Patrick O'Hagan reported that the committee is still in negotiation with the Sweeten's Cove Golf Course. As was reported last month, the golf course has increased rental fees for the second time since last year's event. The chamber feels strongly that we do not want to have

the tournament at a course outside of Marion County and that we may need to increase team fees and offer additional sponsorships to offset whatever increase may be agreed upon (yet to be finalized between Sweeten's Cove Golf Course and the chamber). It was also emphasized that any increases in prices directly impact the amount of funds that can be raised for the business development grants!

New Business:

A. Request for Sponsorship – 2019 National Cornbread Festival

A letter has been received requesting sponsors for the 2019 National Cornbread Festival. Copy of letter was presented to all in attendance and is on file with the minutes.

Joyce Burkhalter made a motion that the chamber participate through a t-shirt sponsorship at \$300. Erik McDaniel seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

B. Applications for Membership – Chattanooga Skydiving, Quality Inn Suites, and South Pittsburg Antiques

Three applications for membership have been received and reviewed by the membership committee with recommendation to approve. They are Chattanooga Skydiving, Quality Inn Suites, and South Pittsburg Antiques. Copies of each application is on file with minutes and were distributed to members present.

Erik McDaniel made a motion which was seconded by Shelby Potterfield that all three applications be approved for membership. Motion carried unanimously.

Guest Speaker:

Detective Gene Hargis with the Marion County Sheriff's Department addressed the chamber regarding efforts to have a child advocacy center serving the 12th judicial district (Bledsoe, Franklin, Grundy, Marion, Rhea and Sequatchie counties) to include advocacy centers in Jasper, Dayton and Winchester.

Mr. Hargis explained the need for a local center in order to respond to child abuse investigations in a timely manner. An advocacy center allows for a neutral setting and interviewer and can provide follow-up services. Currently, Marion County uses the Hamilton County center and often experiences delays in being able to get appointments and in getting the child and family to the center in Hamilton County. A center in Marion County will be housed in the current county commission building on highway 41 in Jasper.

Mr. Hargis is not asking for financial assistance at this time. The first step is to hire a director. With a director in place, state and federal grants are available. There may be a need to secure

local funding until the grants have been received. Mr. Hargis will update the community as plans proceed.

Mayor's Report:

No mayors were present to report.

Miscellaneous:

Ginger Miller spoke to the chamber about "JustServe", an organization that matches volunteers with project opportunities. It is a free service. To find out more about "JustServe" and to sign up as a volunteer, see their website at www.justserve.org.

Taylor Belchar explained that the purpose of his position is to help create jobs through recruiting and expanding new and existing industry. He can be reached by email at taylor.belcher@tn.gov or by phone at 423-440-9007.

Patrick O'Hagan informed the chamber of an apprenticeship program available through Chattanooga State Community College for Industrial Maintenance Technicians. It provides job related classroom training with structured on-the-job learning experiences. Interested employers are encouraged to contact him now to be included with the first cohort of students. For more information see www.chattanoogastate.edu/apprenticeships.

Announcements

Upcoming events were listed on the back of the agenda.

The next chamber meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2019 at noon at the Western Sizzlin.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Judy Blevins

Reviewed by President Kathie Tierney