

Marion County Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors' Meeting

March 15, 2018

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met at the Western Sizzlin at noon on March 15, 2018. Board members in attendance were President Patrick O'Hagan, Vice-President Brett Del Balso, Secretary/Treasurer Shelby Potterfield, Past President Jamie Lawson and board members Kathie Tierney, Joyce Burkhalter and Walker Henley.

Others in attendance were Tina Green and Kenneth Seagraves with the City of Whitwell, Spencer Wayne with Western Sizzlin, Deanna Stott with Hospice of Chattanooga, Sandon Bull with Parkridge Valley West, and Judy Blevins, administrative assistant for the chamber.

President Patrick O'Hagan called the meeting to order and recognized guests and members in attendance.

Please note that a quorum of board members was not present, therefore motions were accepted and a follow-up e-vote will be requested of all board members. The results will be distributed with the minutes.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Walker Henley and seconded by Jamie Lawson to approve the minutes from the February 15, 2018 board meeting. Pending e-vote.

Financial Report:

Shelby Potterfield presented the "Income and Expense Report" for the month of February 2018, "Income and Expense Graph" from August 1, 2017 through February 28, 2018 and "Account Balances Report" as of March 14, 2018. Copies were distributed to all present and are on file with the minutes. Motion was made by Walker Henley and seconded by Kathie Tierney to approve the financial report as presented. Pending e-vote.

Old Business:

A. Report from Events & Tourism Committee

Discussion was continued at this month's meeting regarding scheduling of a golf tournament to be sponsored by the chamber. Sweetens Cove Golf Course has been reserved for Friday, June 1, 2018. Patrick O'Hagan will be sending out a flyer outlining sponsorship levels and recruiting teams. Proceeds from the event will be used for chamber business development grants, etc.

B. Lunch 'n Learn Training

The first of two scheduled lunch and learn seminars was held on March 6, 2018. Patrick O'Hagan reported that those in attendance found the information on a drug free workplace to be beneficial and well worth the time. The second seminar is scheduled for April 17, 2018, at 11:30 AM CDT at Kimball Municipal Building. To reserve a seat, contact the chamber office.

C. Anti-Litter Campaign

The chamber thanks McMahan Law Firm for sponsoring four Marion County residents to pick up roadside litter on Highway 108.

D. Policy Regarding Chamber Sponsorship and Advertisement

During the February 15, 2018 board meeting, there was brief discussion regarding the benefits to having a marketing budget. To follow-up, President O'Hagan has reviewed sponsorship and advertisement expenses based on financial records of the chamber for the past five years. The average amount spent yearly was \$6,000.

Several board members suggested that it would be beneficial for the chamber to have a written policy regarding disposition of requests received by the chamber for sponsorships and advertisements. The policy would be in keeping with the goals and mission of the chamber. The chamber could set a budgeted amount to be spent annually (based on the chamber's fiscal year) with policy as to what percentage of the sponsorship/advertisement budget could be spend on one request. President O'Hagan stated that the executive board will discuss and bring recommendations to the general board.

E. Payroll Procedure

President O'Hagan reported that the executive board has determined that it would be wise to enter into an agreement with England CPA to do employee payroll for the chamber. England already prepares quarterly and annual tax reports for the chamber. By adding biweekly payroll services, there would be an additional expense of \$20 per pay period. No opposition was expressed by board members; therefore, contact will be made with England CPA to begin preparing employee payroll as of April 1, 2018.

New Business:

A. Requests for Sponsorship -National Cornbread Festival

A motion was made by Joyce Burkhalter and seconded by Walker Henley to participate as a t-shirt sponsor for the 2018 National Cornbread Festival in the amount of \$300. Pending e-vote.

B. Nomination for a Chamber Beautification Award – Foodland Shopping Center

A citizen of South Pittsburg sent a nomination to the chamber to recognize the Foodland Shopping Center in South Pittsburg with a chamber beautification award for significant improvement to the exterior of the shopping center. A motion was made by Kathie Tierney and seconded by Joyce Burkhalter to accept the nomination. Judy Blevins will arrange a date and time for the presentation. Pending e-vote.

Mayors' Reports:

Tina Green, City Recorder, reported for the City of Whitwell. Kenneth Seagraves was introduced as the new police chief for the City of Whitwell.

Todd Mistrot and members of the Thrive Committee are attending a leadership conference in Chattanooga today and tomorrow.

Everyone was invited to come to the Pop Up Butterfly Arts Festival on Saturday, March 17th from 10:00 until 2:00. It is scheduled to be on Main Street near the Coal Miners Museum. In the event of rain, it will be moved to the Whitwell Middle School. Lots of activities throughout the day and prizes to be presented for winning art works.

Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Sunday, March 25th, at Whitwell City Park.

Miscellaneous

Jamie Lawson introduced Sandon Bull, Program Coordinator with Parkridge Valley West, who will be overseeing a new intensive outpatient resource available to persons in need of mental health care that does not require inpatient admission. Parkridge Valley West is located on the Parkridge West campus in Jasper and also offers inpatient mental health and addiction services.

Mr. Bull is a licensed clinical social worker and a native of Marion County. Currently, Parkridge Valley West is serving adults with mental illness and/or substance abuse and plan to expand to adolescents at a later date. Free assessments are offered. All major insurance is accepted. To schedule an appointment, call (423) 837-3300.

Joyce Burkhalter invited chamber members to attend a reception at First Volunteer Bank in South Pittsburg at 5:00 PM CDT on Friday, April 27, 2018 in conjunction with opening ceremonies for the National Cornbread Festival scheduled for 7:00 PM. Mrs. Burkhalter stated that the reception offers an opportunity to network with many local and state government officials expected to be in attendance.

Shelby Potterfield announced that on March 2, 2018 Sequachee Valley Electric Coop kicked off their SVEConnect services that will be coming soon to Marion County. SVEC will be able to

provide fiber optic internet service, television programming and phone service. Phase I will begin this summer within the city limits of South Pittsburg, Kimball and Jasper and will continue to expand into other areas of Marion County, excluding Monteagle which is served by a telephone cooperative (law prevents expansion in areas served by telephone cooperatives).

Announcements

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

Brett Del Balso announced that the South Cumberland Mountain Goat Trail Race Weekend will be on April 7th and 8th. In addition to a walk/run on April 7th and half-marathon on April 8th, there will be music, food and fun for the whole family throughout the 2-day weekend.

Walker Henley reminded us of the National Cornbread Festival coming up on April 28th and 29th, with the opening ceremonies on April 27th. During the festival, the public can tour the Lodge Foundry as well as enjoy the many events throughout the weekend.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next monthly board meeting will be April 19, 2018 at noon at the Western Sizzlin.

Minutes submitted by Judy Blevins

Reviewed by President Patrick O'Hagan

Addendum: E-vote was requested and received from a quorum of board members. All motions were unanimously accepted. 3/23/18