

## **Marion County Chamber of Commerce**

### **Board of Directors' Meeting**

**May 17, 2018**

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met at the Western Sizzlin at noon on April 17, 2018. Board members in attendance were President Patrick O'Hagan, Vice President Bret Del Balso, Secretary/Treasurer Shelby Potterfield, Past President Jamie Lawson and board members Kathie Tierney and Garret Faugot.

Others in attendance were Andrew Lawrence with Colonial Chemical, Sonya McShan with Erlanger Hospital, Cody Fox with Tennessee Tub Factory, Michael O'Hagan, Jenny Holder and Heather Bearden with Resource Management, Deanna Stott with Hospice of Chattanooga, South Pittsburg City Manager Gene Vess, Marion County Mayor David Jackson, 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 Kathie Tierney and seconded by Jamie Lawson to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2018 board meeting. Pending e-vote.

#### **Financial Report:**

Shelby Potterfield presented the "Income and Expense Report" for the month of April 2018, "Income and Expense Graph" from August 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018 and "Account Balances Report" as of May 16, 2018. Copies were distributed to all present and are on file with the minutes. Motion was made by Garrot Faugot and seconded by Kathie Tierney to approve the financial report as presented. Pending e-vote.

#### **Old Business:**

##### **A. Report from Events & Tourism Committee**

Brett Del Balso reported that planning for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Marion County Chamber of Commerce Golf Classic Presented by Jasper Highlands is in full swing. Morning and afternoon teams are filled for the June 1<sup>st</sup> event which will be held at Sweetens Cove Golf

Course. In addition to the premier sponsor, Jasper Highlands, Farmers Insurance is a gold sponsor; Colonial Chemical is a silver sponsor; SVEconnect, Hampton Inn, Representative Rick Tillis, First Volunteer Bank, Farm Bureau and Parkridge Hospital are hole and/or green sponsors. Erlanger Hospital will provide lunch, and Moss Motors will provide a car for a lucky person who hits a hole-in-one on a designated hole. Rob Woodfin Printing will provide cart signs. Stay tuned for additional information which will be posted on the chamber's facebook page and/or sent via the chamber's email distribution list.

#### B. Anti-Litter Campaign

Andrew Lawrence reported that Colonial Chemical will be picking up litter along their Adopt-a-Highway stretch on Saturday. Colonial also offered free paper shredding to the public on May 4<sup>th</sup>. This is the second year that Colonial has offered this service to the public. They plan to make this an annual occurrence so look for this event again in the spring of 2019.

#### C. Request for Donations (tabled from the April 17, 2018 board meeting)

##### 1. Summer Reading Program – Marion County Public Libraries

A request for donation to the summer reading program was received from Jasper Public Library and was discussed at the April board meeting. The request was tabled pending additional information about the summer reading program in all Marion County public libraries. See minutes from the April meeting. Included in the packet of information presented to all in attendance at today's meeting was a report of additional information obtained regarding the program. See report on file with minutes. After discussion, it was felt that while the chamber fully recognizes the benefits of a summer reading program, the mission of the chamber is to assist new and existing businesses. Request for a donation to the summer reading program died for lack of a motion.

##### 2. Marion County Veterans Park Helicopter Project

A request for donation to the Marion County Veterans Park's Helicopter Project was tabled from the April board meeting pending additional information. See minutes from the April meeting. At today's meeting additional information was included in the packet of information distributed to all present. After discussion, the board felt that this request met the criteria for donation from the chamber since the park contributes to tourism in the county. Brett Del Balso made a motion seconded by Jamie Lawson that the chamber donate \$500.00 for the helicopter project. Pending e-vote.

## **New Business:**

### **A. Membership Applications**

1. Tennessee Tub Factory – Located in New Hope, Tennessee Tub Factory is a manufacturer of spas & bath tubs. Cody Fox was at the meeting today and explained that the business is doing well and hopes to expand in the near future.
2. Michael O'Hagan, Attorney at Law – With a practice headquartered in South Pittsburg, Mr. O'Hagan began practicing family and general law in November 1997.
3. Chattanooga Vapor Company – Recently opened a branch office in Kimball Shopping Center (Kimball Crossing Drive, #2). The manager, Mr. John Dietz, was unable to attend today's meeting but previously expressed his interest in community leadership and development.
4. Representative Rick Tillis – Although not included on the meeting agenda, Representative Tillis' application was received today. The chamber knows and has had contact with Rep. Tillis at several chamber and community events; therefore, his application was included for vote at today's meeting.

Motion was made by Bett Del Balso and seconded by Kathie Tierney to approve the above applications. Pending e-vote.

### **B. Beautification Award**

Spectacles in South Pittsburg has been nominated for a beautification award. The nomination states that leading up to the Cornbread Festival, Spectacles worked hard to make the exterior of their business more attractive. Jamie Lawson made a motion which was seconded by Kathie Tierney to present Spectacles with a chamber beautification award. Pending e-vote.

## **Mayors' Reports:**

City Manager Gene Vess reported that the 2018 National Cornbread Festival attracted approximately 28,000 paid visitors with over 1,000 community volunteers. The weather was beautiful. No adverse incidents occurred. Congratulations for another successful festival! Mr. Vess also reported that South Pittsburg is making plans to celebrate their 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Details will be shared as they develop.

Marion County Mayor David Jackson reported that the recent bass tournament drew 152 anglers from across the state. There is no estimate as to the money generated to local businesses (especially, motels and eating establishments) as well as tax dollars brought to the county during this weekend event, but it is thought to be significant. Mayor Jackson recognized the Whitwell Fishing Team for helping to park and work the concessions for the event.

Mayor Jackson, Sherriff Bo Burnett, and Juvenile Judge Jay Blevins recently visited a Y-Cap Program in Chattanooga. This program is for youth who may be having issues at school or experiencing community problems within the juvenile court system. It offers a Monday through Thursday program aimed toward helping teens to share, learn and make better choices through a variety of activities which may include boxing, gardening, and computer programs, to name a few. According to Mayor Jackson, this program has been successful in Chattanooga, Cleveland and Ooltewah, and he will be discussing with community leaders the possibilities of starting a similar program in Marion County.

Also under consideration for some time in the future is an Express Y.

The Marion County Commission is working on a budget for the coming fiscal year. Mayor Jackson is pleased to report no increase in property tax.

The county commission has approved seven school resource officers to be stationed in county schools next year. If the Marion County School Board agrees, the cost will be split between the school board and the county. If the school system is unable to contribute, the county will assume the full amount.

With the \$50,000 state tourism grant coupled with a matching \$21,000, the county is studying signage, paper maps and mobile apps to help visitors locate spots of interest in the county.

Polytech Academy at Chattanooga State had a great school year. New students will be coming in next fall with first year students continuing their two-year advanced manufacturing studies.

### **Miscellaneous**

Members and guests present were given an opportunity to give updates or announcements.

- Kyle Summers has been hired as a full time employee at the American Job Center in Kimball.
- SVEconnect will release pricing and begin registering for hookup in June. Service will start in the South Pittsburg/ Sweetens Cove area and will progressively work up the county.
- Members were asked to keep Marion County Road Superintendent Jim Hawk in their prayers as he is in ICU following a heart attack.

### **Announcements**

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

Next chamber coffee is on June 12<sup>th</sup> and is being hosted by Parkridge West. Joe Lurgio with The Caverns will be a guest speaker.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next monthly board meeting will be June 21, 2018 at noon at the Western Sizzlin.

Minutes submitted by Judy Blevins

Reviewed by President Patrick O'Hagan

Results of E-Vote as of May 19, 2018:

- Voting Yes to all Motions:
  - Nick Holcomb
  - Patty Henry
  - Joyce Burkhalter
  - Walker Henley
  - Vicki Messe
  - Jamie Lawson
  - Rodd Mistrot
  - Shelby Potterfield
  - Kathie Tierney

All motions carried without dissent.