

Marion County Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors' Meeting

November 15, 2018

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met at the Western Sizzlin at noon on November 15, 2018. Board members in attendance were President Kathie Tierney and board members Patrick O'Hagan, Nick Holcomb, Garrot Faugot, Walker Henley, Erik McDaniel, and Brett Del Balso.

Others in attendance were Carmen O'Hagan with Colonial Chemical, Kyle Summers with American Job Center, Linda and Terry Kerlin with First Choice Storage, Gene Vess with City of South Pittsburg and Judy Blevins, administrative assistant for the chamber.

President Tierney called the meeting to order and recognized guests and members in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Patrick O'Hagan and seconded by Walker Henley to approve the minutes from the October 18, 2018 board meeting. Motion was carried without dissent. Minutes are on file in the chamber office and are posted on the chamber's website.

Financial Report:

In the absence of Treasurer Shelby Potterfield, Judy Blevins presented the "Banking Summary" for the month of October. "Account Balances as of 11/14/18", and "Income/Expense Graph by Category" for the current fiscal year to date. Copies were distributed to all present and are on file with the minutes.

Old Business:

A. Anti-Litter Campaign

Carmen O'Hagan reported for Andrew Lawrence. No new activities since last month's report. The chamber is grateful to Colonial Chemical, Parkridge West Hospital, and Lodge Manufacturing for participating in the State of TN Adopt-A-Highway program and to other individuals and/or groups who help reduce the amount of roadside litter in Marion County.

There was discussion about the problem of dumping tires in the river and along secluded mountain roads. The question was posed: Could there be some use for recycled tires and a central collection location?

B. Spencer Wayne Memorial

President Tierney reported that as a follow-up to discussion at the last chamber meeting, Meegan Burton spoke with Matt Blansett, Chairman of the Marion County Park Board. He suggested a park bench rather than planting a tree at Marion County Park. Patrick O'Hagan offered another idea: to start a scholarship fund in Spencer's name. Walker Henley said that when his cousin died leaving a child close to Spencer's daughter's age, the family put up a swing on a tree near his grave so that when visiting the burial site, the child could use the swing.

Following discussion, President Tierney agreed to speak with Cheetah Wayne to see how she feels and to see if she is aware of other similar ideas from other individuals or organizations. President Tierney and the committee appointed last month will report at the December meeting.

New Business:

A. Business Grants

There was discussion about how to proceed with business grants for this fiscal year. Consensus appeared to designate \$6,000 for the business grant budget and to combine the presentation of business grants with the chamber golf tournament. No vote was taken.

A committee comprised of Garrot Faugot, Patrick O'Hagan, Walker Henley Brett Del Balso, Kathie Tierney and Judy Blevins will meet to review criteria for past business grants, applications, and time frame and will report back to the board. Recommendation was to combine responsibility of this committee for business grants and the golf tournament.

B. Request for Donation

Two requests for donations were received.

1. Mountain Goat Trail Parkrun – Patrick O'Hagan explained that the local chapter of parkrun is held each Saturday morning. The local run begins in Monteagle and is free to the public to participate. It generates income for area businesses and encourages tourism as participants come from other areas (out of state and even out of US). There are expenses associated with setting up and managing parkruns. See letter of request on file with minutes. After discussion about a donation/sponsorship budget, a motion was made by Patrick O'Hagan to make a one-time donation of \$750 to Parkrun. Motion was seconded by Walker Henley. Motion was carried without dissent.
2. Marion County High School Tip Off Club – While this is a worthy cause, it does not follow the chamber's mission to assist business. Request died for lack of motion.

Mayor's Report:

City of South Pittsburg – City Manager Gene Vess reported that the sound system at the Princess Theater has been revamped in order to encourage more events at the theater. South Pittsburg is also hosting a Veterans Day parade on November 10th with activities to follow. Forty trees are being replaced in downtown South Pittsburg. Planters and benches are being added as well.

No other city/county mayors were present.

Miscellaneous

Members present were given an opportunity to share news about their businesses.

Erik McDaniel announced that a community Thanksgiving service will be held at First Baptist Church in Jasper on Sunday, November 18th. Everyone is invited to attend.

Kathie Tierney announced that a new magazine is coming to Marion County. The first issue of "Marion Lifestyle" is being introduced at a cocktail party on November 30th from 6 PM until 9PM CT. Everyone is invited.

Announcements

Upcoming events were listed on the back of the agenda.

The next chamber meeting is scheduled for December 20, 2018 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