

Marion County Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors' Meeting

April 18, 2019

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met at the Western Sizzlin at noon on April 18, 2019. Board members in attendance were President Kathie Tierney, Joyce Burkhalter, Walker Henley, Garret Faugot, and Erik McDaniel.

(Please note that seven board members are needed for a quorum. In the absence of a quorum, an e-vote will be requested for any motions made during this meeting.)

Others in attendance were Ginger Miller with "JustServe", Josh Brown with TN Small Business Development Center, Terry Kerlin with First Choice Storage, Kyle Summers with Chattanooga State, Mayor Rex Pesnell with Town of Kimball, Mayor David Jackson with Marion County Government, Jake Davis with Tennessee HS Bass Association, Nina Coppinger with TN Valley Federal Credit Union, Carmen O'Hagan with Colonial Chemical, Jordan Bucher with American Job Center, Dewayne Moser with Riverside Chevrolet, Buick, GMC, and William Summers with Shaw Industries.

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

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Walker Henley and seconded by Joyce Burkhalter to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2019 board meeting. E-vote will be requested. Minutes are on file in the chamber office and will be posted on the chamber's website.

Financial Report:

Financial reports were presented and distributed to all present: "Banking Summary" for the month of March 2019, "Account Balances as of 4/17/19", and "Income/Expense Graph by Category" for the current fiscal year through 3/31/19. A motion was made by Joyce Burkhalter and seconded by Walker Henley to accept the financial report. E-vote will be requested. Copies of the financial reports are on file with the minutes.

Old Business:

A. 2019 Golf Tournament

President Tierney announced that the 2nd Annual Marion County Chamber of Commerce Golf Classic has been scheduled for Thursday, June 20th, at Sweetens Cove Golf Course. There will be a morning round and an afternoon round with lunch provided by Erlanger Hospital between rounds.

We are currently accepting team registration as well as sponsors for the event. Information about sponsorship levels and a copy of team registration was included in the packets presented at today's meeting. Proceeds from the golf tournament help support the chamber's small business grant initiative.

President Tierney explained that due to increased expenses for a tournament at Sweetens Cove, it may be necessary to find another location or event next year.

New Business:

A. Request for Donation – Marion County Public Library Summer Reading Program

Copies of a letter from Jasper Public Library were distributed to members present at this meeting. While it is recognized that the summer reading program is important to the children in Marion County, discussion pointed to the fact that the chamber narrows the scope of giving to business related projects or events. Request died for lack of motion.

Guest Speaker:

Lisa Melton and Nina Coppinger, representing Tennessee Valley Federal Credit Union, addressed the chamber regarding "Idea Leap Grant", a loan initiative for small businesses. To be considered for the grant, an applicant must have been in business for at least one year, have revenue less than 1.5 million, be in one of the counties served by TVFCU, and have a minimum of two employees but no more than 20.

For additional information, see <https://www.tvfcu.com/business/idea-leap/idea-leap-loans.html>. Applications for 2019 will be available on TVFCU's website from May 6th through June 7th.

Ms. Melton and Mrs. Coppinger are encouraging interested persons to apply. It would be great to have a grant recipient from Marion County.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Rex Pesnell mentioned that the **Town of Kimball** will be hosting their annual Easter egg hunt tomorrow (April 19th) at Kimball Park beginning at 6:00 PM. The festivities are sponsored by the Town of Kimball, Kimball businesses and area banks. Mayor Pesnell expressed gratitude for sponsoring businesses.

Updating of playground equipment at the park has been completed as has paving and parking near the playground. Final inspection is due on Monday. This work was made possible through an LPRF grant awarded to the Town of Kimball.

Mayor Persnell explained that the Town of Kimball has a long tradition of fighting litter. Recently, a letter was sent to Kimball businesses encouraging them to purchase and use trash

receptacles at their businesses. The Town of Kimball has also purchased additional receptacles which have been placed in strategic places throughout the business area.

Mayor Pesnell introduced a guest, Captain Jake Davis, State Conservation Director & SCTN Director , Tennessee B.A.S.S. Nation High School and Youth.

Captain Davis thanked the chamber for their support of the high school bass tournament program. He went on to explain ongoing conservation efforts. TN Bass Nation encourages fishing youth, parents and other volunteers to participate in river/lake cleanup events. A recent cleanup project of three lakes in TN yielded over 40,000 lbs of trash.

Captain Davis suggested that the chamber and county mayors consider a regional cleanup at Nickajack Lake. TN Bass Nation would help plan and organize the event. According to Captain Davis, the best time for a cleanup is in the winter when snakes are hibernating.

President Tierney thanked Captain Davis for addressing the chamber and Mayor Pesnell for inviting him. She said the chamber would definitely be in support of a lake cleanup.

County Mayor David Jackson next addressed those present. He reported that the closing of Westrock effective May 27th was regrettable but that other businesses have expressed an interest in the Westrock property. Hopefully, one closing will result in another business opening which may ultimately provide even more jobs than those lost through the Westrock closing.

Mayor Jackson stated that all county department heads are currently working on next year's budget. He also pointed out the following positive additions to county property: 1) the renovated Lawson Building which provides a large count commission room, 2) a new bathhouse is being built at Marion County Park, 3) county has met with TWRA officials to address issues with the current boat ramps at the park.

Mayor Jackson expects the new Ace Hardware in Jasper to be opening in the next two weeks.

The county is still working with Chattanooga State to bring a nursing program to Marion County.

Work on the road slide on Hwy 41 is projected to be underway by TDOT this fall. Work is being done by the county on Stage Coach Rd due to water/slide damage.

Marion County was among 56 Tennessee counties to be authorized for federal disaster relief dollars.

Addition to the Marion County Health Department will be completed on Tuesday. Watch for an open house date to be announced soon.

Mayor Jackson ended by stating how important it is for the upcoming 2020 Census to be accurately counted. Census count impacts things such as grants, state and federal representatives, etc. Mayor Jackson encouraged everyone to help spread the word that all people should be counted. There are four ways to be counted: paper census form, website entry, by official phone contact and by census takers knocking on doors. Census workers are being recruited now with count beginning on April 1, 2020. A word of caution: census workers will not ask for social security numbers or credit card numbers. If someone is asked to provide those numbers, it is not a legitimate census request.

Miscellaneous:

Announcements

Upcoming events were listed on the back of the agenda.

In addition to printed announcements, Dewayne Moser announced that Riverside Chevrolet Buick GMC would have an open house on Tuesday, May 14th , at noon. Everyone is invited to attend.

Joyce Burkhalter encouraged folks to attend the Demolition Derby on May 18th at the Marion County Fair Grounds. Dates for additional fair events will be announced later.

Carmen O’Hagan reminded folks about the free shredding day at Colonial Chemical on April 26th. Flyer was included in today’s handouts. Colonial will also be doing a litter pickup on May 4th as part of their commitment to the state Adopt-A-Highway Program.

The next chamber meeting is scheduled for May 16, 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