

Marion County Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors' Meeting

April 15, 2021

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met via Zoom on Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 12 noon CDT. Logging into the meeting were the following board members: Shelby Potterfield, Erik McDaniel, Dave Pestillo, Travis Hickman, Kathie Tierney and Donna Sartin. Since the number of board members present was less than a quorum, e-votes will be requested for any required votes.

Also on the call were Rhonda Van Oteghem with the American Job Center, Sonya Hornbuckle with Volunteer Behavioral Health, Sonya McShan with Erlanger Hospital, David Riley with Marion County News, Kim Wilkins with Hospice of Chattanooga, and Judy Blevins, Administrative Assistant for the chamber.

President Shelby Potterfield called the meeting to order and recognized those in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Travis Hickman and seconded by Donna Sartin to accept the minutes from the March 18, 2021 Zoom board meeting. Copy of the minutes was sent to board members prior to today's meeting and is on file. An e-vote will be requested.*

Financial Report:

Judy Blevins presented the following financial reports, which had been emailed to board members prior to today's meeting: "Banking Summary March 1 - 31, 2021" and "Account Balances as of April 14, 2021".

Donna Sartin made a motion to approve the financial reports. Erik McDaniel seconded the motion. An e-vote will be requested*. Copy of financial report was sent to board members prior to today's meeting and is on file with the minutes.

Mayor's Report

No mayors were in attendance.

Old Business

- Bylaws/Constitution Amendments

Judy Blevins reported that the amendments voted on by the board have been filed with the TN Secretary of State and the Marion County Register of Deeds.

Old Business (continued)

- 2021 Golf Tournament

Erik McDaniel made a motion to proceed with a golf tournament scheduled for June 11, 2021 at Sweeten's Cove Golf Club and for President Potterfield to appoint a committee to work out the details as soon as possible. Donna Sartin seconded the motion. There was discussion as to income and expenses. Kathie Tierney stated that the rental cost to use Sweeten's Cove Golf Club has increased to \$5,500. President Potterfield was happy to report that we do already have a commitment from Riverside Chevrolet to be the premiere sponsor. Mrs. Tierney explained that she had looked at other tournament team registration fees and felt that we should consider increasing the team registration fee for our tournament to \$500 (\$125 per individual). There was also discussion of mulligans and lunch. As stated in the motion, a committee will finalize details which will be shared as soon as possible. Suggestions for committee members voiced during today's meeting were Sonya McShan, Kathie Tierney, Donna Sartin, Walker Henley and Patrick O'Hagan. Final committee members will be determined by President Potterfield who will also be a member of the committee. An e-vote on the motion will be requested.*

- Advertisement in Marion County News

The board previously approved by e-vote for the chamber to take an ad in an upcoming newspaper insert regarding emergency preparedness, however, there was not consensus on the size of the ad. In the meantime, another opportunity to support the local "Marion County News" has come to the board's attention as the paper will be including a section on high school graduation in a May issue. Dave Pestillo made a motion which was seconded by Travis Hickman for the chamber to place a ½ page ad in the emergency insert at a cost of \$230. Travis Hickman made a motion that we also take a ½ page ad in the upcoming graduation issue for a price of \$230. Donna Sartin seconded the motion. President Potterfield will work with the newspaper on ad design. An e-vote on both motions will be requested.*

- Chamber Bi-Monthly Coffees

Continuing the discussion begun at the March board meeting, the board again considered options regarding resumption of bi-monthly coffees. Erik McDaniel made a motion which was seconded by Dave Pestillo to begin bi-monthly coffees in May followed by coffees scheduled for October and December. The motion was then amended by Dave Pestillo and seconded by Donna Sartin in order to include July for a monthly coffee as well. There was discussion as to how to abide by COVID restrictions and a recognition that the chamber would work closely with individual coffee hosts to insure that safety precautions were in place. Giving preference to those who had committed to being hosts prior to cancellation due to COVID, Travis Hickman on behalf of WEPG agreed to host in May (May 11th), and Dave Pestillo volunteered on behalf of Emendee Technologies to host in July (July 13th). President Potterfield will contact South Pittsburg Mayor Samantha Rector and SVEC President Mike Partin to offer them an opportunity

to host in October and December respectively. An e-vote on the motion and amendment to resume bi-monthly coffees will be requested.*

New Business:

- Budget Committee Report

President Potterfield reported that a budget committee met on April 14th via Zoom to begin looking at a budget for the chamber. Committee members participating in the meeting with President Potterfield were Dave Pestillo, Carmen O’Hagan, and Judy Blevins. This initial meeting looked at guidelines for donations requested of the chamber and an advertisement budget. Also mentioned by the committee was the annual banquet and the possibility of increasing the ticket price for the next banquet. The banquet will be examined more closely at a future meeting. (After the meeting, a copy of donation guidelines developed by the chamber in 2008 was located and distributed to committee members for discussion at the next budget committee meeting.) President Potterfield stated that at a future meeting the budget committee will consider whether to revise the guidelines.

- Membership Applications

No new membership applications have been received since the March board meeting.

Miscellaneous

Judy Blevins mentioned that several persons had asked about ribbon cuttings and grand openings. Two examples that have been brought to the chamber’s attention are Redpoint Inn and Alessandro’s Bakery. Judy reported to the board that both of these businesses are chamber members and both are aware that the chamber stands ready to assist them with a ribbon cutting/grand opening. However, the owners of both businesses have stated that they want to wait before scheduling a ribbon cutting.

Donna Sartin mentioned that we haven’t presented a beautification award lately and that we should be on the look-out for a business that would fit the criteria for a beautification award, maybe even looking at businesses who have received grants used for exterior improvements.

Sharing from Community Partners

Erik McDaniel informed the board that Champion Recovery Community will be having a plant sale on May 1st in the parking lot of Grace Presbyterian Church on Main Street in Jasper. (After the meeting, Pastor McDaniel provided hours for the plant sale – they are between 9 am and 1 pm.)

Dave Pestillo stated that the following career days for eight graders have been confirmed at the following schools: South Pittsburg High School – Oct. 8th ; Monteagle Elementary School – February 11th ; Jasper Middle School - March 11th . Yet to be scheduled is Whitwell Middle

Sharing from Community Partners (continued)

School. It will be a more compressed time schedule than it was last year – probably mornings only rather than all day.

Each career day will welcome businesses to send representatives to speak with the students about careers in their respective businesses. More about career days in the weeks/months to come.

Sonya McShan reminded the board that several members of the board had planned to visit Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Business Expo last year. Unfortunately, that expo had to be cancelled due to COVID. Franklin County Chamber has scheduled the next expo to be on September 2nd. It will be an after- hours event, specific hours yet to be determined. Ms. McShan suggested that some of our board members might like to attend the expo in Franklin County to see if it might be something we would be interested in doing in Marion County. Ms. McShan will provide details to the chamber office, which can then we shared through our email distribution list.

President Potterfield announced that her employer, Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative, is accepting application for a systems engineer and a customer service representative. To find out more about these positions and to apply, visit <https://svalleyec.com/careers>.

Kim Wilkins with Hospice of Chattanooga shared that she and her organization want to be more involved in the Marion County community and would like to be a \$750 sponsor for the golf tournament!

Sonya Hornbuckle is the outreach coordinator for a program called Safety Net for Children in Tennessee through Volunteer Behavioral Health. She is housed in Coalmont but covers sixteen counties, including Marion. Safety Net for Children in Tennessee is a program for Tennessee children between the ages of 3 and 17 with behavioral, emotional and/or mental health needs. It began as a program for uninsured children; however, it may be adding children with insurance in the near future. It does not include children in state custody. Ms. Hornbuckle will keep the chamber informed as changes occur and is happy to meet with interested persons or to mail additional information and pamphlets upon request.

Another program through Volunteer Behavioral Health is “Emotional Recovery from COVID-19” and is available to help anyone affected by COVID. Yard signs and brochures are being distributed. Hotline phone number to call for help is 833-954-2424.

Earlier in the meeting, David Riley with “Marion County News” announced that his business is moving to a new location at the end of April. The new location is on Main Street in Kimball, across from Speedy Lube and in the office space previously occupied by Simply Charmed. Mr. Riley plans to improve the storefront with new signage and landscaping.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Next scheduled meeting for the board is Thursday, May 20, 2021 at noon.

* All motions carried without dissent.

Voting "Aye" :

Joyce Burkhalter
Carmen O'Hagan
Shelby Potterfield
Kathie Tierney
Travis Hickman
Patty Henry
Donna Sartin
Erik McDaniel
Vicki Messer
Mandy Finotti
Dave Pestillo
Patrick O'Hagan

Voting "No":

None

Vote not cast:

Cody Fox
Dan McDermott