

Marion County Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors' Meeting

March 18, 2021

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met via Zoom on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 12 noon CDT. Logging into the meeting were the following board members: Shelby Potterfield, Erik McDaniel, Dave Pestillo, Mandy Finotti, 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 Mike Otterman with Lodge Cast Iron, Rhonda Van Oteghem with the American Job Center, Jamie Lawson with Parkridge Hospital, Sonya McShan with Erlanger Hospital, and Judy Blevins, Administrative Assistant for the chamber.

President Shelby Potterfield called the meeting to order and recognized those in attendance. On behalf of the chamber, she also expressed condolences to Lodge Cast Iron in the recent death of a Lodge employee.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Mandy Finotti and seconded by Erik McDaniel to accept the minutes from the February 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 February 1 - 28, 2021" and "Account Balances as of March 16, 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. However, Marion County Mayor David Jackson had reported the following information to be shared with the chamber: 1) the number of COVID cases are down in the county; 2) although there was some minor flooding last night due to heavy rainfall, we were very fortunate that there was no major flooding to report within the county; 3) the county will be receiving \$5.6 million in "Rescue America Funds". There are limitations as to projects for which it can be spent.

Old Business

- Spencer Wayne Small Business Grants 2021

President Potterfield was happy to report that all nine applications received were approved for 2021 Spencer Wayne Small Business Grants. Due to limited funds, not all applicants received the full amounts requested but all agreed to accept the amounts approved and expressed gratitude for the grants. The approved amounts varied from \$650 to \$1,500. An itemized list of recipients, projects and approved amounts was sent to board members and others via the chamber's email distribution list and is on file with the minutes.

President Potterfield thanked the members of the selection committee and once again thanked Lodge Cast Iron for the \$10,000 donation which enabled the chamber to offer the grant program this year. Note that the total amount approved is \$10,071. The chamber will pay \$71 in excess of the \$10,000 donation.

- 2021 Golf Tournament

At this meeting the board continued to discuss the possibility of a golf tournament on the proposed date of June 11, 2021. Several members present felt that 1) since the tournament is outside and projected to be in warm weather (maybe even hot), 2) vaccinations are continuing to reach local residents, and 3) the tournament is almost three months away, we should make plans to proceed in June. However, members also recognized that it is hard to predict COVID spread and if stats start spiking in an upward trend, we would reserve the option to bow out of a tournament in June. Sonya McShan mentioned that the Franklin County Chamber is proceeding with a tournament in May. Sonya offered to touch base with them and share with us any changes they may have developed because of COVID. No vote was taken at this meeting, but the board agreed that we should establish a golf tournament committee and let the public know that we are tentatively planning for a June tournament and are accepting team registrations and sponsors. President Potterfield and Judy Blevins will develop an email distribution to be sent as soon as possible. Final decision will have to be made at the April 15, 2021 board meeting.

New Business:

- Request for Donation

The chamber has received a request from Whitwell High School Guidance Counselor Michelle Pestillo to donate gift cards, certificates or a monetary gift to be used by staff to purchase gift cards or certificates to WHS students who have taken the ACT more than once and have raised their scores in any subject or on their composite score.

Following discussion, Donna Sartin made a motion which was seconded by Erik McDaniel to purchase eight (8) Walmart gift cards at \$25 each to be given to WHS students who meet the criteria listed above. An e-vote will be requested. *

- **Membership Applications**

Two membership applications have been received and reviewed by the chamber's membership committee – 1) J&Co. Salon, and 2) Tennessee Termite & Pest Control. Copies of the applications are on file with the minutes.

Erik McDaniel made a motion to approve both new applicants. Dave Pestillo seconded the motion. An e-vote will be requested. *

Miscellaneous

Judy Blevins reported that the revisions to the bylaws voted on by the board previously were sent to the chamber membership at-large via email. Following the deadline to reply “yea” or “nay”, 29 member businesses/organizations or individual members replied. The only negative vote (1) was regarding e-voting. Of the members who responded to request for voting, the motion to revise the bylaws as approved by the board carried. On March 17, 2021 State of TN form SS-4416 was completed and sent to the TN Secretary of State as is required when a non-profit revises their bylaws. When the form is returned to the chamber with approval from the TN State Department, it will be filed with the Marion County Registrar. Form SS-4416 is on file with the minutes. For additional information regarding specifics of the revisions, refer to minutes from previous board meetings.

Judy Blevins informed the board that Christy Pitts with “Marion County News” visited the office this morning. There are two advertising opportunities for the board to consider. One is to take an ad in the church directory section of “Marion County News” and the other is advertising in an insert the paper plans to do around the issue of COVID relief, emergency preparedness, etc. No decision was made at today's meeting but details will be emailed to the board for consideration.

Sharing from Community Partners

Erik McDaniel, who sits on the board of Champion Recovery Community, gave an update on what Champion Recovery is doing to help those, primarily women at this time, who are coming out of situations of abuse, co-dependency and traumatic experiences. Through their work, Champion Recovery is realizing that there may be a need for a women's shelter in the Jasper/Kimball/South Pittsburg area. Anyone who is interested in such a project is encouraged to support Champion Recovery in their plans to move forward.

Shelby Potterfield stated that SVECares is available to help nonprofit organizations and qualifying individuals. SVECares is funded by SVEC members who participate voluntarily in the billing roundup program. According to Shelby, it averages about \$6.00 per year per member. Applications for assistance through SVECares can be found at SValleyEC.com. Guidelines are very specific and exclude political groups and utility bill assistance.

Sonja McShan asked if anyone was aware of programs for children this summer, particularly for mentoring, co-oping, and helping school age children make up for academic loss experienced this year. No one was aware of such a program but suggested that the Marion County School System might have information.

Dave Pestillo reported that he has begun to reach out to area schools regarding a career day. He is scheduling for the fall and will provide additional information to the board in future meetings. Tentative dates confirmed with schools as of now: Jasper Middle School – Friday, March 11, 2022 and Monteagle – Friday, February 11, 2022. Other schools have not yet set dates.

Judy Blevins mentioned that several persons have asked about the bimonthly coffees the chamber had prior to COVID restrictions. One suggestion was to have the coffees outside. Concern about food was voiced. Perhaps we could consider resuming in the fall and giving first choice to hosts previously scheduled for last year. Ultimately, the decision at today's meeting was to think about the issue and put it on the agenda for further discussion at the April meeting.

Mandy Finotti invited interested persons to attend an Arts In the Burg Community Zoom Meeting on Monday, March 22nd, with the mural artist Ivan Roque in attendance. At the meeting, community input is encouraged to begin the creative process for the first mural. An email was previously sent through the chamber office with details to access the Zoom meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Next scheduled meeting for the board is Thursday, April 15, 2021 at noon.

* Responding to request for e-voting as of 3/23/21: Vicki Messer, Kathie Tierney, Dave Pestillo, Travis Hickman, Patrick O'Hagan, Patty Henry, Carmen O'Hagan, Eric McDaniel and Joyce Burkhalter. All e-votes were to approve all motions.