

Marion County Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors' Meeting

May 20, 2021

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met via Zoom on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 12 noon CDT. Logging into the meeting were the following board members: Shelby Potterfield, Dave Pestillo, Travis Hickman, Vicki Messer, Joyce Burkhalter, Patty Henry, Carmen O'Hagan, and Kathie Tierney. Quorum was met.

Also on the call was 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.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Kathie Tierney and seconded by Dave Pestillo to accept the minutes from the April 15, 2021 Zoom board meeting. Motion carried without dissent. A copy of the minutes was sent to board members prior to today's meeting and is on file.

Financial Report:

Prior to the presentation of the financial reports, President Potterfield announced that Dave Pestillo has agreed to become the interim secretary/treasurer for the chamber as the current secretary treasurer, Dan McDermott, has been unable to meet monthly with the administrative assistant in order to reconcile the bank statements. President Potterfield thanked Dave for his willingness to accept that position. He will present the financial reports beginning next month.

Judy Blevins presented the following financial reports, which had been emailed to board members prior to today's meeting: "Banking Summary April 1 - 30, 2021" and "Account Balances as of May 18, 2021". By way of explanation, Judy stated that the miscellaneous expense incurred in April was \$7.21 to register the chamber's bylaws amendments with the Marion County Register of Deeds. The office supplies were for checks ordered from Harland Clarke. Postage listed in the report was to mail information to two new chamber members. All other income and expenses reflected on the report are routine and recur monthly.

Regarding the grant account, five out of nine approved for the 2021 Spencer Wayne Small Business Grants have been completed and paid in full. As of today, the ending balance in that account is \$5,282.94 and awaits bills submitted by the remaining four recipients when their projects are completed.

Judy explained that all major sponsors of the upcoming golf tournament have paid their individual sponsorship amounts. Because those payments were received in the month of May,

they will be reflected in the banking summary report next month. The checking account balance has also increased since the report was printed. A \$3,000 deposit was made today (May 20).

Joyce Burkhalter made a motion which was seconded by Vicki Messer to approve the financial report. The motion carried unanimously. A copy of the 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

- Marion County Chamber of Commerce Golf Classic 2021

Plans for the golf tournament scheduled for June 11th at Sweetens Cove Golf Club are progressing. All team slots have been filled. All major sponsors have been secured (Riverside is Premiere Sponsor, SVEConnect is the Silver Sponsor, Lodge Cast Iron is the Gold Sponsor, and Hospice of Chattanooga is the Bronze Sponsor.) We are accepting hole sponsors through June 1st.

Volunteers will be needed throughout the day. A sheet of volunteer opportunities was distributed via email to board members prior to today's meeting. Interested persons should enlist through the chamber office so that volunteers and tasks can be coordinated. Dave, Kathie, Sonya, and Travis (or someone else from WEPG) have volunteered to help. Joyce Burkhalter said that First Volunteer Bank will send a volunteer, and Carmen O'Hagan will speak with Colonial Chemical about possible volunteers from that business.

Patty Henry, owner of SueBob's Diner, will provide box lunches for the team members. Sonya McShan said that Erlanger Hospital will provide tea and water during lunch. Kathie Tierney will purchase items for the beverage cart and will be in charge of operating the cart throughout the day. During the meeting, Carmen O'Hagan and Sonya McShan offered their individual businesses to provide items for the gift bags. Kathie Tierney has already picked up items from Marion County Mayor's Office, SVEC, and Smile, Inc. She will continue to pick up items as they become available and will be responsible for goody bags being assembled.

Moss Motors did confirm that they will provide a car for the hole-in-one prize. We will need someone to pick up the car and return it at the end of the day. Shelby Potterfield agreed that she or a co-worker Jake will take care of that.

The starting time for morning rounds has been moved from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM CDT at the request of the course.

A snack cart to transport beverages and snacks throughout the day and prizes are needed. Sonya McShan will check to see if a cart is available from Erlanger. During the meeting, Shelby Potterfield said that SVEC will provide a \$50 VISA card. The chamber will provide VISA cards for the morning and afternoon winning team members. Later in the meeting, Sonya McShan received an email that Erlanger would donate a \$50 gift card as well. The two \$50 gift cards will be used as the prize for closest to the pin in morning and afternoon rounds each. Still pending are gifts for longest drive and overall team winner. Kathie Tierney will contact Lodge Cast Iron for possible gifts for morning and afternoon longest drive. Sonya McShan will also make contacts for possible gifts.

- Membership Applications

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

New Business

President Potterfield thanked WEPG for hosting the recent coffee and expressed the feeling of all participants that it was great to be able to have an in-person event after over a year of cancellations due to COVID restrictions. A schedule of upcoming coffees for the remainder of 2021 was sent to board members.

The conversation extended to whether it was now safe to have in-person board meetings. The consensus was that we will begin meeting in-person next month, June 17th, at the Western Sizzlin. Judy will check with Western Sizzlin tomorrow and will let the board know if that location is available for monthly meetings.

President Potterfield asked the board how they felt about the annual banquet this year. Kathie Tierney shared her experiences with a Rotary banquet recently. Travis Hickman stated that he thought we should have the banquet in-person unless it would restrict the chamber from making money. Several persons stated that we rarely make money at the annual banquet. However, this year we might consider having a silent auction as well as door prizes. Kathie Tierney stated that she would volunteer to solicit items from local businesses.

There was also discussion regarding an increase in ticket prices. Assuming that we are allowed to have Pat's Summit as our venue, we would be obligated to have catering through Top of the Rock Restaurant. After discussion, it was determined that we should inquire as to food prices before determining a reasonable ticket price. Tentative date for the banquet would be August 19th. Travis Hickman was asked to check on any major football conflicts with that date and to report back. Kathie Tierney volunteered to check on the possibility of using Jasper Highlands Pat's Summit on that date and will check with Top of the Rock regarding menu options and pricing.

Discussion led to the topic of a speaker and Phillip Fulmer's name was mentioned. Sonya McShan is friends with Coach Fulmer's daughter so she agreed to reach out to her friend regarding how to contact Fulmer. Decision on a speaker is pending.

Miscellaneous

Judy Blevins informed the group that we have received a very nice note from Marion County Libraries Director Karen Strain thanking the chamber for approving a grant for their summer reading program.

Sharing from Community Partners

Carmen O'Hagan shared that Colonial Chemical would be doing a litter pick-up this weekend with another planned for June. The chamber commends Colonial for continuing to be an active member of the TN Adopt-a-Highway Program. Carmen also shared that Colonial just spread fresh sand on the Nickajack beach at Marion County Park. Colonial also awarded two scholarships to high school seniors interested in chemistry or a related field. One scholarship winner was from Richard Hardy Memorial and the other from Whitwell High School.

Judy Blevins reminded the chamber that they are invited to attend a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Jasper Branch of Mountain Valley Bank on Thursday, May 27th, at 11:30 AM CDT.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. Next monthly meeting of the board is scheduled for Thursday, June 17th, at noon.