

Marion County Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors' Meeting

July 15, 2021

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met at the Western Sizzlin in Jasper on Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 12 noon CDT. The following board members were in attendance: Shelby Potterfield, Travis Hickman, Carmen O'Hagan, Eric McDaniel and Kathie Tierney. Due to lack of quorum, motions and seconds will be accepted but voting will be deferred to an evote.

Also in attendance were Jenny Holder and Heather Breeden with Resource Management, Sonya McShan with Erlanger Hospital, David Riley with Marion County News, Katie Rains and Allison Betancourt with Colonial Chemical, Julie and William Bernard and Nick Piccirillo from Sasquatch Farm, Michael O'Hagan with O'Hagan Law Firm, 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 Kathie Tierney to accept the minutes from the June 17, 2021 board meeting. Motion will be sent for evoting. A copy of the minutes was sent to board members prior to today's meeting and is on file.

Financial Report:

In the absence of Treasurer Dave Pestillo, Judy Blevins presented the following financial reports, which had been emailed to board members prior to today's meeting: "Banking Summary June 1 - 30, 2021" and "Account Balances as of July 14, 2021". By way of explanation, it was stated that there had been an error by the bank when checks were ordered, resulting in an overcharge reflected in the April bank statement and credited back in the June bank statement. In order to reconcile the bank statements correctly, entries in Quicken on April 9th (+\$693.26) and on June 2nd (-\$524.96) are shown as a "banking expense." These entries were recommended and approved by Treasurer Pestillo.

Additional explanations were as follows: Misc. Expense for \$100 – memorial gift to EMA of Marion County in the name of Cody Fox; Office Supplies for \$183.20 for a white board ordered from Amazon (\$155.81) and two storage bins purchased at Walmart (\$27.39). And Advertising - half page ad (\$230) in Marion County News' high school graduation issue.

A final Income and expense breakdown for the 2021 Marion County Golf Classic was provided to those present and shows net proceeds of \$11,312, which will be used for small business grants in the coming year. See handout.

Kathie Tierney made a motion to accept the financial report. Eric McDaniel seconded the motion which will be sent for an evote. A copy of the financial report was provided to all persons present and is on file with the minutes.

Mayor's Report

No mayors present at today's meeting.

Old Business

- 2021 Annual Banquet

The 2021 Marion County Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet will be held on Thursday, August 19th, at 6:00 PM CDT. Top of the Rock Restaurant will cater a buffet meal cafeteria style. Entertainment will be provided by Jesse Black. Keynote speaker is Steven Strain. Tickets are \$50 and are available from any board member and the chamber office. During the evening, new board members will be approved and 2021 Citizen of the Year and 2021 Business of the Year recipients will be recognized.

New Business

- Red Sand Project

Zack North with the Marion County Health Department could not be present today but asked that we share information about the Red Sand Project. The simple act of placing sand in a sidewalk crack can raise awareness of vulnerabilities that can lead to exploitation. Handouts were available as well as a link to the website www.redsandproject.org. Any organization or individual interested in becoming a part of the Red Sand Project should contact Zachary.North@tn.gov. Handout is on file with the minutes.

- Chamber Storage

As the chamber accumulates more things (especially as related to the annual golf tournaments), storage has become a problem. A suggestion was to rent a small storage unit at First Choice Storage for \$50 per month. President Potterfield indicated that no vote was needed as it would be a monthly office expense. There were no objections voiced at the meeting. One suggestion was to see if the chamber might receive a discount. Judy Blevins will look into the possibility.

- Advertisement in Marion County News Football Guide 2021

A handout was provided showing prices for the football guide 2021 to be published by Marion County News, with a tentative publish date of August 17, 2021. David Riley indicated that the paper is considering a variety of options for distribution of the guide. He also encouraged any suggestions we might have. Kathie Tierney made a motion which was seconded by Eric McDaniel for the chamber to take out a half-page ad for \$325. Marion County News will help

develop the contents and layout. An evote will be requested. Handout is on file with the minutes.

Membership Application

An application for individual membership has been received from Debbie Boggs and reviewed by the membership committee who recommended Mrs. Boggs for chamber membership.

Mrs. Boggs works at the Bethlehem Center in Chattanooga, developing grants, etc. Her husband, Doug Boggs, is the pastor of the Pentecostal Church in South Pittsburg and also works for Colonial Chemical. They have a daughter who is a senior at SPSHS. Debbie has been involved with other chambers and wants to become more involved in the Marion County community.

Travis Hickman made a motion to approve Debbie Boggs as an individual member of the chamber. Carmen O'Hagan seconded the motion which will be sent to board members for an evote.

Sharing from Community Partners

Sasquatch Farm was represented by three persons today. Julie Bernard explained that Sasquatch is 130 acres on South Pittsburg Mountain with 50 slots for camping, complete with electricity and water. The plan is to keep the land as natural as possible. There is, however, a store to be opened within the next two weeks. The farm has hiking and walking trails, a lake and waterfalls. Ms. Bernard stated that they have done a lot of work since acquiring the land a year ago. She invited everyone to visit. There is a charge for biking and hiking but the fee will be waived for chamber members who want to visit. For additional information, visit www.sasquatchfarm.com .

Ms. Bernard expressed an interest in chamber membership. An application will be mailed to her.

A Step Ahead Chattanooga was represented by Lissa Goeltz. Although Chattanooga is in the title, A Step Ahead also serves Marion County. Reared in South Pittsburg, Lissa says she is excited to be back in this area, working with women on preventative health issues, and making a positive difference in the community in which she grew up.

WEPG/The River is gearing up for the football season – a big deal for the listening public. Travis Hickman said that he and David Riley are partnering to present a radio sports show called “Coaches’ Corner”, which will premiere next Wednesday at 2:00 PM CDT. Montana Findley with Marion County News will be the host. All local football coaches will be participating at different times throughout the football season. Plans are to rebroadcast on Friday afternoons at 4:00 PM.

Colonial Chemical is planning a job fair on July 28th at Chattanooga State Kimball from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM, Carmen O’Hagan reported. Any job seekers are encouraged to stop by.

Carmen also introduced two more Colonial employees at the meeting today. They are Katie Rains and Allison Betancourt. Allison is the Regulatory Affairs Manager at Colonial and Katie is a Human Resource Generalist. Welcome!

SVEC is bringing back the “Bright Ideas Program” this year. It is a grant program to assist teachers with STEM projects. The total grant amount pledged is \$10,000 with a cap of \$2500 per teacher. Shelby Potterfield explained that the application process opens on August 1st and ends September 30th.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Next scheduled board meeting is Thursday, September 16, 2021 at the Western Sizzlin. Don’t forget the banquet on August 19th.

Voting yes to all votes:

- Travis Hickman
- Vicki Messer
- Patty Henry
- Kathie Tierney
- Eric McDaniel
- Carmen O’Hagan
- Patrick O’Hagan
- Dave Pestillo

No vote cast as of 7/26/21

- Dan McDermott
- Joyce Burkhalter
- Mandy Finotti
- Shelby Potterfield