

## **Marion County Chamber of Commerce**

### **Board of Directors' Meeting**

**September 16, 2021**

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met via Microsoft Team on Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 12 noon CDT. The following board members were in attendance: Carmen O'Hagan, Shelby Potterfield, Travis Hickman, Mandy Finotti, Eric McDaniel, Joyce Burkhalter, Patrick O'Hagan, Sonya Walker-McShan, Vicki Messer and Dave Pestillo.

Also in attendance were Louise Powell with Heart Realty, Beth Duggar with Sequachee Valley Electric, Gina Pannell, Lisa Goeltz with "A Step Ahead", Tyler Ford with tnAchieves, and Judy Blevins, Administrative Assistant for the chamber.

President Carmen O'Hagan called the meeting to order and recognized those in attendance.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Travis Hickman and seconded by Eric McDaniel to accept the minutes from the July 15, 2021 board meeting. Motion passed unanimously. A copy of the minutes is on file in the chamber office.

#### **Financial Report:**

Treasurer Dave Pestillo presented the following financial reports, which had been emailed to board members prior to today's meeting: "Banking Summary July 1 - 31, 2021", "Banking Summary August 1 – 30, 2021" and "Account Balances as of 9/16/2021". Note: It is the practice of the chamber to present for board approval a banking summary from the prior month. Since the annual banquet preempted the August meeting, a banking summary was presented at this meeting for the month of July as well as the month of August. See reports on file with today's minutes.

Shelby Potterfield made a motion to approve the reports as presented. Travis Hickman seconded the motion. All board members present voted to approve. There was no dissenting vote.

#### **Mayor's Report**

No mayors present at today's meeting.

#### **Guest Speaker**

Tyler Ford, Director of Mentors for tnAchieves, spoke about TN Promise and tnAchieves and the importance of mentors for college students enrolled in the program. tnAchieves is looking for

volunteer mentors for Marion County students. To sign up to be a volunteer or for additional information, go to [www.tnachieves.org](http://www.tnachieves.org).

### **Old Business**

- 2021 Annual Banquet

Prior to today's meeting, board members were emailed a copy of "2021 Annual Banquet Income and Expenses". In that report, total expenses were shown as \$8,805.13. Income to date was shown as \$8,550 with \$150 still outstanding. Note: as of the transcribing of the minutes, all income and expenses are complete. See report presented at the meeting on file with minutes.

During discussion, it was mentioned that several persons purchased tickets but declined to attend due to concerns regarding COVID. The chamber recognizes and appreciates their generosity.

A suggestion was made for future consideration to locate the cash bar in a place more easily accessed without interrupting the program in progress.

- Chamber Storage

At their July 15, 2021 meeting, the board agreed for the chamber to rent a storage unit at an amount of \$50 per month. As follow-up, Judy Blevins reported that after consulting Watts-n-Storage and First Choice Storage, the latter was within our price range. When first contacted in June, there were small units available at First Choice. However, due to activities before and after the annual banquet, we were not ready to move equipment until recently. Now, all small units are filled. The chamber has been placed on a waiting list.

### **New Business**

- Election of Officers for 2021/22 Fiscal Year

President O'Hagan announced that Travis Hickman has expressed an interest in becoming President- Elect, Erik McDaniel is agreeable to continuing as Vice-President, and Dave Pestillo has agreed to serve as Secretary-Treasurer if elected. The chair agreed to accept nominations for each office.

- President Elect – Shelby Potterfield nominated Travis Hickman. Dave Pestillo seconded the motion. There were no other nominees. Nomination passed without dissent.
- Vice-President – Shelby Potterfield nominated Eric Mc Daniel. Mandy Finotti seconded the motion. There were no additional nominees. Motion carried.
- Secretary-Treasurer – Joyce Burkhalter nominated Dave Pestillo. Erik McDaniel seconded the motion. There were no additional nominees. Motion carried without dissent.

- Approval of Signatures for Chamber Checking Account

Judy Blevins explained that she has contacted First Volunteer Bank regarding procedure to add new chamber president Carmen O'Hagan to the list of persons authorized to sign checks for the chamber. All bank forms have been completed but must also include written authorization from the board. Erik McDaniel made a motion to add Carmen O'Hagan to the list of authorized persons to sign checks on the chamber's bank account at First Volunteer Bank. Dave Pestillo seconded the motion which was carried unanimously. A copy of the letter sent to First Volunteer documenting board approval is on file with the minutes.

- Request for Advertisement in "2022 Living Here"

After reviewing advertisement options, Eric McDaniel made a motion that the chamber place a full page ad in the "2022 Living Here" in the amount of \$525. Shelby Potterfield seconded the motion which carried without dissent. See price sheet on file with the minutes.

Note: Judy Blevins commented that having this visitor's guide is helpful when fulfilling requests from prospective visitors and/or newcomers.

- Tennessee River Rescue

The chamber has received a letter requesting sponsorship for the Tennessee River Rescue which is scheduled for Saturday, October 2, 2021 and includes sites in Marion County. Travis Hickman made a motion which was seconded by Eric McDaniel to donate \$300 for the event. Motion carried unanimously. See letter on file with minutes.

### **Membership Application**

The following applications for membership have been received in the chamber office and have been reviewed by the membership committee, which recommends all three for approval:

- Betterfi - a non-profit 501(c)(3) economic justice enterprise and certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) providing affordable installment loans and complementary financial programming as a pathway out of predatory loans.
- Busy Bee – wash and fold laundry service in South Pittsburg.
- The Sweet Spot – Ice cream and sweet shop in South Pittsburg.

Copies of the applications were sent to board members prior to today's meeting. Eric McDaniel made a motion to accept all three membership applications. Sonya Walker-McShan seconded the motion which carried without dissent.

## **Miscellaneous**

- Salary for Administrative Assistant

Shelby Potterfield reported that the board has agreed to increase the salary for the administrative assistant from \$13.00 per hour to \$14.00 per hour. See email.

Dave Pestillo made a motion to increase the administrative assistant's salary to \$14.00 per hour. Motion was seconded by Eric McDaniel and carried by the board with no dissent.

## **Sharing from Community Partners**

Dave Pestillo reminded the board and guests that the first Career Day of the current fiscal year is scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup> at South Pittsburg High School. Several persons have signed up as volunteer presenters but more are needed. Dave will send out a reminder and additional information so that volunteers can plan their presentations. In the past, students have rotated from one presenter to another in order to learn about as many different career choices as possible.

Lissa Goeltz informed the group that A Step Ahead Chattanooga has just completed a video to share with rural communities. It can be found at [www.astepaheadchattanooga.org](http://www.astepaheadchattanooga.org). Lissa encourages interested persons to share the video.

Mandy Finotti reminded all that Lodge is planning a big fall event, "Lodgetoberfest", for October 1 – 3, 2021. There will be entertainment, refreshments and more in addition to great sales items. Visit them at the Lodge Factory Outlet Store in South Pittsburg.

Judy Blevins stated that The City of South Pittsburg is scheduled to host the next chamber coffee on October 12<sup>th</sup>. However due to COVID restrictions, the decision is still pending. As soon as the chamber has confirmation as to date and place, we will send out an email.

President O'Hagan suggested a homework assignment for everyone: brainstorm any ideas about fund raising events for the chamber and be prepared to share them at the next board meeting.

Finally, Sonya Walker-McShan was welcomed as a new board member. Sonya is already an active part of the chamber so it is only fitting that she is now an official board member, having been elected by chamber members at the August 19, 2021 annual banquet.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Next scheduled board meeting is Thursday, October 21, 2021 at noon. Board will be notified as to in-person or virtual.