

Marion County Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors' Meeting

October 21, 2021

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met via Microsoft Team on Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 12 noon CDT. The following board members were in attendance: Carmen O'Hagan, Shelby Potterfield, Travis Hickman, Mandy Finotti, Sonya Walker-McShan, Vicki Messer and Dave Pestillo. Note: Because a quorum of board members was not present, an evote will be necessary for any business motions presented in today's meeting.

Also in attendance, Lissa Goeltz with "A Step Ahead Chattanooga", Spike Hosch with Betterfi.Co, Chenita Lasley with DHS Division of Rehabilitation, 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 Vicki Messer and seconded by Dave Pestillo to accept the minutes from the September 16, 2021 board meeting. Motion will require an evote. 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 9/1/2021 through 9/30/2021", and "Account Balances as of 10/19/2021". Travis Hickman made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented. Mandy Finotti seconded the motion which will require an evote. See report for details, a copy of which is on file with the minutes.

Mayor's Report

No mayors present at today's meeting.

Old Business

- Career Day

Dave Pestillo reported that presenters from nine area businesses/organizations are scheduled to participate in the first Career Day 2021/22 which is scheduled for Friday, October 22, 2021 at South Pittsburg High School. The Career Day Program targets eighth grade students in Marion County Schools with a goal of offering information on a variety of possible career paths. Future schedule includes Whitwell Middle School on 12/10/21, Monteagle Elementary School on

2/11/22, and Jasper Middle School on 3/11/22. Persons interested in participating in future Career Days should contact the chamber office.

- 2021 Spencer Wayne Small Business Grants

President O'Hagan reported that a final report was emailed to board members prior to today's meeting. All approved grants have been paid. See report for details. An amount of \$63.93 was transferred from the chamber checking account to the grant account in order to cover all approved grants. The chamber has \$11,312.57 net proceeds from the 2021 Golf Classic on June 11, 2021 which will be applied to the 2022 Grant Program.

- Chamber Storage

Judy Blevins reported that we now have a storage unit (H-18) at First Choice Storage and that all items used at past golf tournaments and other miscellaneous items previously being held at the chamber office have now been moved to the storage unit. A monthly fee of previously approved \$50 will be required. The key and password is maintained in the chamber office.

New Business

- Ribbon Cutting

A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony introducing "A Step Ahead Chattanooga" is scheduled for Tuesday, November 16th, at 1:30 PM CT, at the chamber office, 302 Betsy Pack Drive in Jasper. Lissa Goeltz encouraged everyone to attend.

Membership Application

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

- Raulston Woods & Gardens
- Melinda Woodard Hill – individual membership

Copies of the applications were sent to board members prior to today's meeting and are on file with today's minutes. Vicki Messer made a motion to accept both membership applications. Mandy Finotti seconded the motion which will be presented for an evote.

Miscellaneous

Judy Blevins asked if there might be a volunteer to take over the writing of highlighted member businesses which we post on our website. Erik McDaniel has been writing these, but he has asked to be replaced. Kathie Tierney is willing to help but is not currently available. Mandy Finotti volunteered. She and Judy will get together to decide which members to feature next. Thanks, Mandy!

President O'Hagan reported that a member has asked that the chamber look at becoming more involved in litter prevention. It was noted that several years ago, the chamber formed a committee and took on litter prevention projects. President O'Hagan asked if there was interest in reviving a litter prevention initiative. Although no decision made, several persons said they would help if we wanted to have a litter pick-up day.

President O'Hagan also asked for fund raising suggestions. This generated discussion about some of the events sponsored by the Franklin County Chamber. Several examples included "Poker on the River", a business expo, barbeque cookoff, community mixers, a lunch and learn event, and something similar to "Saturdays on Signal" which is an event sponsored by businesses on Signal Mountain.

Sonya Walker-McShan, who is a member of both the Franklin chamber and the Marion chamber, said she would like to see Marion County sponsor a business expo and that she would be willing to provide tickets to any Marion County chamber member who might like to attend the Franklin County Expo which is scheduled for this spring.

Ms. Walker-McShan suggested contacting Michelle Earle as a good resource and volunteered to send us Michelle Earle's contact information.

Following discussion, President O'Hagan said that she would like to form a committee to look at fund raising/event options and have that committee report back to the board.

Sharing from Community Partners

Spike Hosch explained that Betterfi is a 501-C non-profit organization housed in Grundy County but serving the surrounding counties, including Marion. They are available to help with financial planning and credit coaching to individuals and organizations. Currently, their primary partner is Tower Community Bank.

Chenita Lasley, Business Employment Consultant with DHS Rehabilitation Services, is available in Marion County to businesses and individuals with disabilities, with a goal of matching individuals to jobs. Services can include training as well as assistance with completing applications and helping to secure necessary accommodations. The services are free to businesses and individuals. Ms. Lasley asked to be included in community events in order to make business contacts.

Many Finotti stated that there was a great response to Lodgetober Fest a couple of weekends ago. Lodge is also involved in major expansion at their foundry. Future plans include a museum and a restaurant. A mural is being completed as Lodge continues to expand and beautify the local community.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Next scheduled board meeting is Thursday, November 18, 2021 at noon. Board will be notified as to in-person or virtual.

Voting by Evote as of 10/27/21 in favor of approval of:

- September 16, 2021 minutes
- Financial Report as listed in the minutes
- Membership Applications from Raultston Woods and Gardens and Melinda Woodared Hill

Vicki Messer

Patrick O'Hagan

Erik McDaniel

Mandy Finotti

Joyce Burkhalter

Sonya walker-McShan

Shelby Potterfield

Patty Henry

Kathie Tierney

Travis Hickman

Dave Pestillo

Voting by Evote not in favor of approval:

None