**Marion County Chamber of Commerce**

**Board of Directors’ Meeting**

**December 16, 2021**

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met via Microsoft Team on Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 12 noon CST. The following board members were logged in: Carmen O’Hagan, Travis Hickman, Mandy Finotti, Sonya Walker-McShan, Vicki Messer, Erik McDaniel, Joyce Burkhalter, Patrick O’Hagan, and Dave Pestillo. Also logged in were Lissa Goeltz, Mike Otterman, Rhonda Van Oteghem, Beth Duggar, Michael Griffith, and Judy Blevins, Administrative Assistant for the chamber.

President Carmen O’Hagan presided and called the meeting to order, recognizing those in attendance.

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Vicki Messer and seconded by Travis Hickman to accept the minutes from the November 18, 2021 board meeting. Motion carried without dissent. 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 - November 2021”, and “Account Balances as of 12/13/2021”. Vicki Messer made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented. Patrick O’Hagan seconded the motion which carried unanimously. See report for details, a copy of which is on file with the minutes. Dave reminded those present that some members still owe for dues renewal for fiscal 2021/22. Reminder notices have been mailed.

**Mayor’s Report**

No mayors present at today’s meeting.

**Old Business**

* Career Day

Dave Pestillo reported that the Career Day for eighth graders at Whitwell Middle School presented on December 10, 2021 was well received. A thank you note from Principal Josh Holtcamp was received in the chamber. Mr. Pestillo thanked the following businesses/organization who participated in the event: Lodge cast Iron, Valmont Utilities, Colonial Chemical, UT Extension, Chattanooga State Community College Kimball Campus, Sequachee Valley Electrical Cooperative, Whitwell High School and Emendee Technologies. The next Career Day is scheduled for February 11, 2022 at Monteagle Elementary followed by March 11th at Jasper Middle School. Any businesses who would like to participate are asked to contact the chamber office.

* Chamber Coffee 2022

Following discussion at last month’s board meeting, the following businesses have volunteered to host coffees in 2022: Roger Funeral Home in South Pittsburg (February 8, 2022), Adoration Home Health (April 12, 2022), Lodge Cast Iron (August 9, 2022), Town of Jasper (October 11, 2022), Sequachee Valley Electric ( December 8, 2022). Tentatively planned is City of South Pittsburg, awaiting confirmation for June 14, 2022. Should circumstances change (particularly regarding COVID), the chamber in consultation with the hosts will reassess. For now, the plan is for chamber coffees to resume in 2022.

Judy Blevins asked that anyone who would like to speak at a chamber coffee or would like to request a speaking topic should contact the chamber office.

**New Business**

* Chamber Business Grants 2022

President O’Hagan stated that it is time to begin planning for business grant opportunities for 2022. These grants are made possible by net proceeds from the golf tournament held in June 2021. Mandy Finotti, Vicki Messer, and Travis Hickman volunteered to be on a planning committee. President O’Hagan may appoint additional members to the committee. Note: after the meeting a check of the golf tournament records indicates that net proceeds from the 2021 tournament equal $11,312.57.

**Membership Application**

* No new membership applications have been received since last month’s meeting.

**Request for Donation**

* **Marion County Children’s Fund**

The chamber has received a letter from the Marion County Children’s Fund asking for a contribution to “help us continue our work”. A copy of the letter was emailed to board members prior to today’s meeting.

During discussion at today’s meeting, members recognized that the work done by the Marion County Children’s Fund is a worthy case and one that several members do support or plan to support as individual contributors. However, the question brought forth by several persons present at today’s meeting is one that the board always considers when making a donation: does the request match the goals and objectives of the chamber which is to support business and industry in Marion County. Following the discussion, there was no motion to approve a request for donation, but there was a suggestion that the chamber contact a member of the Marion County Children’s Fund Committee and offer to share the letter with those on our email distribution list. Ideas from discussion included the chamber playing an “open channel role” by participating in a “Giving Tuesday” or other opportunity whereby a list of local non-profits who meet a designated criteria would be shared via the chamber’s email and social media distribution. Judy Blevins agreed to contact a member of the Marion County Children’s Fund Committee to offer our help in distributing their letter if they desired.

**Miscellaneous**

Judy Blevins announced that a ribbon cutting has been scheduled for January 8, 2022 at 11:00 AM CT at Envy Nutrition located at 355 Kimball Crossing Drive. Chamber office will be sending out an invitation within the next two days. As always, board members are encourage to attend ribbon cuttings whenever possible.

**Sharing**

Travis Hickman announced that after working with SVEC officials on an idea since 2018, WEPG/The River has now partnered with SVEConnect to be a part of local programing through SVEConnect television. It can be accessed through SVEConnect channel 4. This will be an opportunity for WEPG to expand and provide to the public increased connection to local events, such as city and county meetings. As time progresses there will be additional programing available. Vicki Messer reminded the board that equipment needed to make this a reality was purchased in part through a chamber small business grant.

Beth Duggar shared with the group that Arts-in-the-Burg is sponsoring a ticketed event in the Arts-in-the-Burg building on January 8, 2022 featuring the trio group “Call Me Spinster”. Several persons present at today’s meeting stated that this trio of sisters is great! Beth said she would send the chamber a flyer of the event so that we could share with our email distribution list.

Sonya Walker-McShan added that she would like for Erlanger to be involved with Arts-in-the-Burg by displaying art work in some Erlanger sites. Beth Duggar and Travis Hickman both agreed to send contact information to Sonya.

The meeting was adjourned with wishes to everyone for a Merry Christmas. The next meeting of the board is scheduled for January 20, 2022 at noon. The board will be informed as to whether it will be an in-person meeting or virtual.