**Marion County Chamber of Commerce**

**Board of Directors’ Meeting**

**January 20, 2022**

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met via Microsoft Team on Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 12 noon CST. The following board members were logged in for at least a portion of the meeting time: Carmen O’Hagan, Travis Hickman, Kathie Tierney, Mandy Finotti, Vicki Messer, Shelby Potterfield, Erik McDaniel, Joyce Burkhalter, Patrick O’Hagan, and Dave Pestillo. Also logged in were Michelle Story, Melinda Hill, Rhonda Van Oteghem, and Matthew Brown. Judy Blevins, administrative assistant for the chamber, was also on the call.

Vice President Erik McDaniel presided and called the meeting to order, recognizing those in attendance.

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Travis Hickman and seconded by Shelby Potterfield to accept the minutes from the December 16, 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 - December 2021”, and “Account Balances as of 1/17/2022”. Travis Hickman 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.

**Mayor’s Report**

No mayors present at today’s meeting.

**Old Business**

* Chamber Coffee 2022

Following discussion during the December Board Meeting, President O’Hagan asked Judy Blevins to reach out to Rogers Funeral Home, the scheduled host for the February 8th Chamber Coffee. Judy reported that she spoke with Ralph Mosier, owner of Rogers Funeral Home, before today’s meetings, and he is still in agreement to host. We anticipate that there will be some people who will choose not to attend due to COVID concerns. Others may wish to wear masks, but the decision at this time is for the coffee to take place as scheduled.

* Spencer Wayne Small Business Grant Program 2022

The grant committee consisting of President Carmen O’Hagan, Travis Hickman, Vicki Messer, Shelby Potterfield, Mandy Finotti, and Patrick O’Hagan met virtually on Friday, January 14th. Additional committee members Walker Henley and Kathie Tierney were unable to participate in the meeting.

A copy of the grant committee minutes as well as updated information, including the 2022 application and accompanying letter was sent to all board members prior to today’s meeting.

(Note: a problem with an electronic submit button on the application has not yet been resolved but is being worked on in hopes that it will be available by February 1st.)

As reflected in the committee minutes, applications will be accepted from February 1 through February 28, 2022. The committee projects that the review and disposition of all applications will be completed by the second week in March 2022.

The proceeds from the chamber golf tournament 2021 in the amount of $11,312.57 will be used to fund the grant program.

* Career Days

Dave Pestillo reported that we have reached out to previous presenters and others to participate in the next two career day programs scheduled (2/11/22 at Monteagle Elementary School and 3/11/22 at Jasper Middle School). Anyone interested in volunteering to assist with one or more career days should contact Dave at 423-939-9889 or [Dave@EmendeeTech.com](mailto:Dave@EmendeeTech.com).

* **Featured Member Bio’s on the Chamber’s Website**

Mandy Finotti reported that she has been working on new featured member bio’s for the chamber’s website. She has also been in touch with WinWorld’s Samuel Keyes through email. The plan is to develop a feature on the website whereby it is possible to scroll through all bio’s. (Currently, only the most recent ones are available to view.) Long term goal is to eventually get bio’s on all chamber members. There may be an extra charge from WinWorld to add this feature, but we have not received an estimate or bill. Any additional expense will be brought to the board for a vote.

**Membership Application**

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

**Request for Donation**

* No new requests for donations have been received since last month’s meeting.

**Miscellaneous**

Kathie Tierney reported that Sweetens Cove Golf Course contacted her to see if the chamber would like to reserve a tournament date. According to Kathie, there are a limited number of tournaments being booked and the chamber is being given an opportunity to sponsor again this year. Kathie tentatively reserved June 10, 2022 as the date for a chamber tournament. A cost to reserve the course was not discussed. Kathie will request that information from the course manager and will bring it before the board for a vote.

**Sharing**

Patrick O’Hagan reported that Chattanooga State Kimball will be having an open house on February 8, 2022. He also announced that the Kimball site will offer a registered nursing program in the fall of 2022. Registration deadline for that program ends March 1, 2022.

Mandy Finotti updated those present as to the plans Lodge has for a museum and restaurant which will be located behind the factory in South Pittsburg. Mandy also mentioned that the world’s largest skillet’s has arrived at Lodge and will be on display at the museum when it opens. For additional details regarding the museum, go to <https://bit.ly/3GsrgQG>.

A question was asked about whether the National Cornbread Festival would be held this year, and if so, when. Mandy confirmed that the festival will be the last full weekend in April (April 23 – 24) with additional events on Friday evening April 22, 2022. To inquire about becoming a volunteer for the festival, contact Paige Hill. To inquire about booth space, Beth Duggar is the contact, but it is our understanding that all booth space has already been taken. Contact Mandy Finotti for questions regarding the arts and crafts portion of the festival and/or to volunteer to assist with arts and crafts.

Kathie Tierney told the group that recently her home dryer stopped working. The solution was to take lots of clothes to “Busy Bee Laundry” in South Pittsburg. Kathie was extremely pleased with the service and recommends that anyone in need of laundry service should check them out.

The meeting was adjourned until the next scheduled board meeting set for February 17, 2022. The board will be informed when a decision has been made as to whether it will be an in-person meeting or virtual.