

Marion County Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors' Meeting

November 18, 2021

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met via Microsoft Team on Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 12 noon CST. The following board members were logged in: Carmen O'Hagan, Shelby Potterfield, Travis Hickman, Mandy Finotti, Sonya Walker-McShan, Vicki Messer, Erik McDaniel, Kathie Tierney, Donna Sartin, and Dave Pestillo. Also logged in were Lissa Goeltz, representing "A Step Ahead Chattanooga", and Judy Blevins, Administrative Assistant for the chamber.

Vice-President Erik McDaniel 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 October 21, 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 - October 2021", and "Account Balances as of 11/17/2021". Donna Sartin made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented. Vicki Messer 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

- A Special Presentation (Not Included on the Printed Agenda)

On behalf of the chamber board, Shelby Potterfield "virtually" presented Kathie Tierney with a past president's plaque and thanked her for two years of service as chamber president (2018/19 and 2019/20).

- Career Day

Dave Pestillo reported that the Career Day for eighth graders at South Pittsburg was presented on October 22, 2021. Presenters representing nine businesses/organizations participated. The

chamber is grateful to the presenters and to South Pittsburg High School principal and staff for their assistance. The next Career Day is scheduled for December 10th at Whitwell Middle School.

- River Rescue 2021

The chamber has received a thank you note from WaterWays, the sponsoring organization for this year's River Rescue, for the chamber's donation to River Rescue 2021. Copies were sent to board members prior to today's meeting. The note is on file with the minutes.

- Spotlighting Members on the Chamber's Website

At last month's board meeting Mandy Finotti volunteered to begin writing spotlights on chamber members to be posted on the chamber's website. She assumed this role as it was passed down from Erik McDaniel. At today's meeting Mandy reported that she has begun reaching out to some of the newest chamber members and hopes to have spotlights ready for posting soon. Erik McDaniel suggested that he get together with Mandy to share some information he had been working on. A great idea presented by Mandy would be to work with our website host to find a way for all spotlights to be maintained in history by adding the ability to scroll back to previous spotlighted members. Judy Blevins will discuss with WinWorld, the chamber's website host.

New Business

- Ad in "Home for the Holidays"

Marion County News will be publishing a Christmas insert, "Home for the Holidays", in their December 21, 2021 edition of Marion County News. A list of prices was emailed to board members prior to today's meeting. After discussion, Dave Pestillo made a motion which was seconded by Travis Hickman to take out a ½ page ad in the amount of \$235. The motion carried without dissent. Several ideas were suggested for the ad which will be followed-up before the deadline date of December 10th. Note: after the meeting, it came to our attention that there is a choice between black and white and color with color adding an additional \$150 to the cost. A follow-up evote will be requested to determine whether to go with black and white or color.

- Chamber Coffees for 2022

There was discussion as to whether to resume chamber bi-monthly coffees in 2022. Board members expressed a desire to go back to in-person coffees eventually but a reluctance to begin now based on a continuation of new COVID cases developing in Marion County. Mandy Finotti stated that a good idea might be to watch the Marion County Health Council as to when they feel it is wise for them to meet in-person or virtually. It was suggested that we might want to pencil in hosts for 2022 with the understanding that circumstances at the time would dictate

whether to follow-through with each coffee on a case by case situation. Ultimately, the decision was made to address this issue again at new month's board meeting.

Membership Application

The following application for membership has been received in the chamber office. It has been reviewed by the membership committee, which recommends board approval:

- Remax Realty South

Donna Sartin made a motion to approve Remax Realty South for chamber membership. Travis Hickman seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Miscellaneous

- Judy Blevins referred to the December calendar of events, highlighting the December 2nd ribbon cutting scheduled for 2:00 PM CT at Raulston woods and Gardens, as well as mentioning community Christmas parades and events. See calendar distributed via email.
- Mandy Finotti explained that Arts in the Burg is presenting various art classes during the month of December and January. Mandy will send a flyer to be distributed.
- Kathie Tierney spoke about the 12th Judicial Children's Advocacy Center's Christmas Bazaar which is scheduled for December 4th. It will be at the American Legion Hall in South Pittsburg from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM CT and will begin with breakfast with Santa including a picture with Mr. Clause! Lots of vendors will have Christmas crafts and goodies for sale with proceeds to provide counseling and support to abused children in the 12th Judicial District which includes Marion County. Kathie will send Judy a flyer to be shared with the chamber.
- Donna Sartin is sending information about some Christmas events in the upper end of the County to be included on the calendar.
- Lissa Goeltz thanked everyone for helping to facilitate a ribbon cutting yesterday for A Step Ahead Chattanooga.
- Shelby Potterfield announced that SVEConnect has added their 5,000 customer to SVEConnect! And everyone is invited to tune in to channel 4 on Friday for a "big announcement" from SVEConnect.
- Shelby Potterfield also mentioned that SVEC has three job openings (one in accounting, one in customer service and another as IT network administrator).

The meeting was adjourned with wishes to everyone for a happy Thanksgiving. The next meeting of the board is scheduled for December 16, 2021, at noon. The board will be informed as to whether it will be an in-person meeting or virtual.