

MARION COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES . 5/18/23

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met on May 18, 2023, at 12 noon CST at the Western Sizzlin in Jasper, TN.

Pastor Eric McDaniel started with a prayer.

Travis Hickman asked for a roll call.

Board members present: President Travis Hickman, Vice President Eric McDaniel, Joyce Burkhalter, Kathie Tierney, Sonya McShane, Mandy Finotti, Staci Brockwell, Mike O'Hagan, and Mike Birdwell **Guest in attendance:** Alli Johnson with Colonial Chemical. Richard and Ruth w Camp Chet, David with TN Job, and Cindy Hopkins, coordinator for the Marion County Chamber, were also in attendance.

Joyce Burkhalter motioned to accept first, and President Travis Hickman seconded.

A quorum of board members was present for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Travis Hickman to approve the minutes from April 2023. Joyce Burkhalter seconded.

All in favor unanimous, all opposed none.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Dave Pestillo was not present but did provide Financial reports for Cindy Hopkins to read. Cindy Hopkins read the following financial reports: "Banking Summary – April 2023" and "Account Balances as of May 2023". Dave stated everything is in check, expenses are all in order. \$329 payment was deducted from the incorrect account for the credit card payment, it will be corrected asap. Regarding Autobooks, a few Chamber members are not happy with the fee attached to the invoice.

The Chamber has decided to use the Square payment option for the Golf Classic and will continue to research a new payment method for upcoming Chamber needs.

Each board member present at today's board meeting received a copy of the financial reports.

Joyce Burkhalter motioned to accept the financial report first, and Mandy Finotti seconded.

All in favor unanimous, all opposed none.

MAYORS REPORT

No Mayors are present today.

OLD BUSINESS

- SWSB Grant

Only 1 check has been paid out to the River 104.9 in the amount of \$1800, and 1 check has been paid out to O'Hagan Law Firm in the amount of \$2000.

- **Autobooks** – Not happy with the program. Square payment processing will be our option for the Golf Classic. Kathy motioned and Mike Birdwell seconded.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Office Computer/Phone –**

Computer - Board discussed options and decided on a new Lenovo laptop for \$399 for Chamber office use. Mike Birdwell motioned and Staci Brockwell seconded. All in favor unanimous, all opposed none.

Phone - The board agreed to purchase a headset phone and Mike Birdwell with SVEC agreed to help change the service at the Chamber office building to what is needed. Mandy Finotti motioned and Kathie Tierney seconded. All in favor unanimous, all opposed none.

- **Chamber Banquet**

The committee will consist of Mandy Finotti, Kathie Tierney, Travis Hickman, Mike Birdwell, Joyce Burkhalter and Sonya McShan. Mandy Finotti will reach out to committee members soon. All in favor unanimous, all opposed none.

- **Membership Committee**

Staci said the committee has met several times. 2 topics are how to increase membership and how to increase dues. Staci and the committee proposed a membership dues increase: Industry and Business 35+ from \$250 to \$400; Financial Institutions \$300 to \$400; Industry and Business 10-34 \$175 to \$275; Small Businesses less than 10 \$125 to \$175; Personal \$55 to \$100. Add/Delete, non-profit is not a separate criteria, but will get a 25% discount. Delete doctors/lawyers/dentists/auto dealers, they will be put into one of the above categories. Net increase conservatively will be a \$8500-\$9000 increase in revenue. Joyce motioned to accept new membership fees as presented, Sonya McShan seconded. All were in favor, all opposed none. There is a waiting list for our Chamber Coffee events, let's incorporate lunch and learn and Happy Hour Events. Joyce motioned to include Member Spotlight and member ads, Erik McDaniel seconded. All in favor unanimous, all opposed none.

- **Social Media / Digital Committee**

Cindy Hopkins updated on the photo contest. Almost 100 photos were submitted, and 8 photos were chosen. 7 gift cards for the winners were donated through Colonial Chemical and Lodge, and 1 gift card was purchased by the Marion County Chamber for \$10.

- **Golf Classic**

Kathie Tierney updated that it is sold out. She is still in need of promo items. Sponsorships: GOLD - SVEC, Silver - Melissa Hubbard, Silver – Lodge. Mulligans 2 per team - 2 for \$20. Raffle tickets for larger items are \$5 per ticket or 5 for \$20. Travis Hickman with the River is doing the Hole-In-One \$25,000 prize. There is also an additional gift for golfers, which is a golf club and a golf ball.

- **Promotional Items for Chamber**

Let's put together some ideas and do an evote.

Membership Applications

- Camp Chet – Robert and Ruth Freeman were present and spoke on behalf of their business.
- Melissa Hubbard – Re/Max Realty South
- Sister Spirits – Kim Mears-Vick

Mike Birdwell motioned first; Joyce Burkhalter seconded

Miscellaneous and sharing from community partners

Cindy Hopkins, Chamber Coordinator had a few questions.

1. *What happened to the Beautification Award?*

Ran out of people to award - turned into SWSB Grant

2. *Why do members apply and not follow through with payment?*

Check by-laws regarding 90-day cancellation and must reapply. Sonya mentioned doing a class for businesses in our area to teach people how to market and strategize.

Chamber Coffee - Borders in South Pittsburgh on June 13th at 8 am.

Donald Kilgore, with TN Job Center, spoke of wanting to be more involved in Marion County.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until the next board meeting which is scheduled for Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 12 noon cst at the Western Sizzlin. motioned first to adjourn, seconded.