

MARION COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES . 7/20/23

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met on July 20, 2023, at 12 noon CST at the Western Sizzlin in Jasper, TN.

Travis Hickman asked for a roll call.

Board members present: President Travis Hickman, Kathie Tierney, Mike Birdwell, Mandy Finotti, Joyce Burkhalter, Staci Brockwell, Sonya McShan, and Dave Pestillo.

Guest in attendance: Alli Johnson with Colonial Chemical, Amy Pilgrim with Lodge Cast Iron and Cindy Hopkins, Coordinator for the Marion County Chamber, were also in attendance.

Mike Birdwell motioned to accept first, and Mandy Finotti seconded.

A quorum of board members was present for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Travis Hickman asked for a motion to approve the minutes from June 2023. Mandy Finotti motioned first, and Kathie Tierney seconded.

All in favor unanimous, all opposed none.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Dave Pestillo said Financial reports were fine. "Banking Summary – June 2023" and "Account Balances as of July 2023". The Chamber CD is coming up in September and we will look into that. The credit card report has not ever been reconciled, we will start doing that. The Chamber credit card looks high in expenses due to Golf Classic. We are "borrowing from Peter to pay Paul" to cover expenses toward the end of the fiscal year we will talk more Everything in the accounts is balanced and looks good.

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

Mike Birdwell 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**

The Marion County Libraries are close to finishing their summer programs and will have documentation for the Chamber soon. The ABC Learning has decided against accepting the grant.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Membership** – Cindy Hopkins stated all membership invoices have been mailed out and that we will be trying to only email all invoices next year.

- **Chamber Banquet**

Mandy Finotti stated banquet will be on August 17th, 2023 at The Hooch this year. It will be cheaper per person. Cindy Hopkins has tentative numbers put together that she will email out to board members. We are looking to not be in the hole this year, but anticipate making some money at this event. Kathie Tierney got a quote from Cathy Carson to cater at about \$15 per person. The speaker is Mr. Mike Partin, a great leader at SVEC. There will be silent auction items and door prizes Mike Birdwell is donating a large TV that will be rewarded at the end of the banquet to encourage people to stay. Tomorrow is the final day to submit business and citizen of the year nominations. Anyone wanting to be on the decorating committee should talk with Mandy Finotti. With more capacity at The Hooch, the committee is asking that all board members try to sell at least 10 tickets. Keith Smith will be the DJ at this year's banquet.

- **Social Media / Digital Committee**

Cindy Hopkins said she just started doing Member Spotlights on Facebook every Monday and Friday.

Travis Hickman spoke ABOUT Svalleynow.com which is a new digital newspaper in Marion County.

Dave Pestillo talked about the Career Days schedule: Monteagle will be on 11/10/2023, Whitwell will be on 12/15/2023, South Pittsburg will be on 01/12/24, and Jasper will be on 02/16/24.

Mandy Finotti stated that Amy Pilgrim will be representing Lodge Cast Iron Manufacturing with the Chamber as Mandy Finotti has resigned from Lodge Cast Iron Manufacturing and will be Director of Arts In The Burg.

A conversation was had regarding voting on new board members. Cindy Hopkins was asked to send out a list of current board members and officers and their terms.

Membership Applications

- J & D Painting and Construction

Travis Hickman motioned first; Dave Pestillo seconded

Miscellaneous and sharing from community partners

Travis Hickman started the conversation with a question from Cindy Hopkins about what are stipulations for becoming a member. Are there requirements for being a member? business license, brick and mortar, EIN, tax ID number. It was determined that Cindy Hopkins should ask how the business files taxes. Dave Pestillo says if they are willing to pay dues they can join.

Upcoming Chamber Events

- 7/21 Ribbon Cutting Event @ Angel Cakes
- 8/8 Chamber Coffee @ Colonial Chemical
- 8/17 Chamber Annual Banquet @ The Hooch

Staci Brockwell mentioned Colonial Chemical Adopt-A-Highway on Sat 7/29

Sonya McShan mentioned a Past-Present-Future rebranding campaign with Erlanger

Mandy Finotti mentioned Pitt to Port Community Paddle event on 7/29. 7/30. Movie in the Gallery for South Pittsburg 150th Anniversary on 7/30. Soiree Fashion Show at the Princess Theatre and Arts In The Burg on 8/12.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until the next board meeting which is scheduled for Thursday, August 17th, 2023 at the Annual Chamber Banquet.

Joyce Burkhalter motioned first to adjourn, and Mandy Finotti seconded.