

# **MARION COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES . 10/19/23**

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met on October 19, 2023, at noon CST at the Western Sizzlin in Jasper, TN.

Mandy Finotti asked for a roll call.

**Board of Directors present:** President Mandy Finotti, Travis Hickman, Vicki Messer, Kathie Tierney, Staci Brockwell, Sonya McShan, Erik McDaniel, Michael O’Hagan, Dave Pestillo, Jason Campbell, Trey Chance, Curtis Spangler and Amy Pilgrim.

Board Coordinator present: Cindy Hopkins

**Guests in attendance:** David Jackson the Marion County Mayor, Zoey and Joshua Evans with DragonTech IT Services, Donald Kilgore with TN Dept of Labor, Ben Sterling with TN Achieves, Deedee Sutton with J&D Painting and Construction, Gina Pannell with Re/Max, Anthony Roque Envy Nutrition, and Alli Johnson with Colonial Chemical.

A quorum of board members was present for the meeting.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mandy Finotti asked for a motion to approve the minutes from October 2023, Curtis Spangler motioned first, and Sonya McShan seconded.

Mandy Finotti asked for a motion to approve the minutes from August 2023, Joyce Burkhalter motioned first, and Dave Pestillo seconded.

All in favor unanimous, all opposed none.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Dave Pestillo said Financial reports were all in order and provided two reports for the meeting: “Banking Summary – August 2023” and “Account Balances as of August 2023”. The checking account \$31,183. CD account \$26,603 is in 7 mon CD at 5.01%, grant account has \$5283, and credit card account will be reconciled soon. Everything is in check.

Motion to approve Vicki Messer first, Staci Brockwell seconded.

All in favor unanimous, all opposed none.

Each Board member present received a copy of the financial reports.

### **MAYORS REPORT**

Airport project is going well, ended up with 6 million dollars in grants and funds for upgrading the airport for a total cost from the county of \$225,000. Airport plans to open

## OLD BUSINESS

None

## NEW BUSINESS

- New Board Member voting process update— Applications received. Positions in need of nominations for 2023/24 Vice-President, President-Elect and Treasurer. Board member positions open will be Michael O Hagan and Michael Griffith. Due to several people requesting a change of voting process, there was a vote on 8/16/23 to make the voting process separate from the annual banquet. Discussion was had about how to change the voting process. Mandy Finotti motioned that there be a closed meeting with just the current board members, then all of the Chamber members can vote via an emailed voting form for the new board members. Joyce Burkhalter asked for a discussion, regarding why there can't be an open vote during the closed meeting. Mandy Finotti stated that it should be an anonymous process. Mandy Finotti motioned to have a closed meeting with board members in person or virtually, then a complete member vote via emailed form. Mandy Finotti motioned first, Erik McDaniel seconded. Sonya McShan asked about the criteria for the board member's community placement. Sonya McShan offered to move to the Monteagle placement due to her working in that area.

All in favor yes, any opposed, none

-Sonya McShan mentioned the idea of having a Board retreat soon. Mandy Finotti agreed and asked Sonya McShan to head a Board retreat committee.

-Mandy mentioned having a Roberts Rules Lunch and Learn soon.

- **Membership** – Staci Brockwell shared that the committee is trying to continue to grow Whitwell and then introduced DragonTech IT Services, which is based in Whitwell, as a new business applicant. Cindy Hopkins was asked to give an update on paid memberships. Currently, there are 152 members and 60 are not paid. There was a good discussion regarding how to move forward with unpaid membership dues. Mandy Finotti motioned that the membership committee work with Cindy Hopkins regarding the membership process.
- **Chamber Banquet** – Mandy Finotti asked about attendance, Cindy Hopkins shared that there were 240 guests with a preliminary estimated profit of \$4160.

- **Career Days** – Dave Pestillo provided the dates for the Career Days. He encourages everyone to participate.
  - Monteagle: November 10
  - Whitwell: December 15
  - South Pittsburg: January 12
  - Jasper: February 16
  
- **Social Media / Digital Committee - none**

### **Membership Applications**

- DragonTech It services – approved
- Jeff Robertson - approved
- Envy Nutrition – approved

Past procedure has been there is a committee to review new applications and that committee then presents their recommendations to the Board.

Dave Pestillo motioned first; Joyce Burkhalter seconded.

### **Miscellaneous and sharing from community partners**

Cindy Hopkins mentioned doing a Fall business decorating contest for Marion County Chamber member businesses. Let's encourage member businesses to clean up and decorate to beautify Marion County. Question regarding what the reward could be. Mandy Finotti will appoint a small events committee. Anyone interested speak with Cindy Hopkins. With a change in SVEC's annual December event, the December date will be held for a Chamber event.

Staci Brockwell shared the Colonial Chemical Adopt-A-Highway event being a success.

Mandy Finotti shared the TN Riverline cleanup. 9:00 – 1:00 on October 7<sup>th</sup>. She also shared the that a grant for South Pittsburg Rivertowns was received. Also that Arts in the Burg received a grant to build a stage out back.

Patrick O Hagan shared progress on the Chattanooga State campus progress with a potential December groundbreaking

Amy Pilgrim shared Lodge's new community engagement committee.

Mandy Finotti asked that each of the new Board member nominees introduce themselves.

### **Upcoming Chamber Events**

10/19/23 Chamber Board meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned until the next Board meeting which is scheduled for Thursday, October 19th, 2023.

Erik McDaniel motioned first to adjourn, and Sonya McShan seconded.