

Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

APEX Network, Rachel Bush
CEC, Rebeca Gabel (**Secretary**)
Christ Bros. Asphalt, Inc, Carrie Christ (**Treasurer**)
City Board and Alderman, Cheri Wright
Dairy Queen, Baron Rana
Farmers & Merchants Bank, Barbara Joy

Legendary Creation, Janet Schmitt
Lebanon Historical Society, Al Gerdes
Regions Bank, Megan Rector (**Vice President**)
Scott AFB Public Affairs, Christi Spargur
Visitors Center, Joe Zimmerlee (**President**)

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am at the Visitor's Center by Joe Zimmerlee.

Joe Zimmerlee led the invocation.

Guest speakers:

- Golf Tournament Update; we made \$2,362 from the golf tournament with 16 teams, down from 25 last year. We'll need more teams earlier next year if we are to have it again.

Reports:

Treasurers Report:

- Checking Account Balance as of 06/23/2016 was \$3,095.13
- Money Market account as of 06/23/16 was \$13,342.32
- Mortgage balance is \$4,164
- Hwy 4 sign project: Income \$5,362/Expense \$702/Balance: \$4,660
- Police Rehab Project: Income \$5,140/Expense \$4,656/Balance: \$484

Secretary's Report

- May meeting minutes approved with corrections to include Mayor Wilken's update.

Visitors Center

- Charter is set up.
- There were some issues and complaints about the A/C in the Visitor's Center, and we got a quote for \$6,904 w/ 7-year warranty and a \$500 discount. We will obtain the new A/C if needed.
- We now have some help on Saturdays at the Visitor's Center, but more volunteers are always welcome for backup and to split the volunteer hours. For more information, call Joe Zimmerlee or Betty at the Visitor's Center, 537-8420.

Merchants

- For more information, e-mail Holly Lovell at thetiahouse@gmail.com for more information on meetings.

McKendree University—Michele Erschen

- Tickets available for McKendree Football season. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.mckbearcats.com/tickets
- McKendree students start moving in Aug 25th, Classes start Aug 29th

City (Cheri Wright)

- Parade route for Fireman's Picnic will be different this year, rides and picnic will be at the new Fire Department.
- Mayor/city is trying to work on a balance budget.
- Shuetz Street to open before school starts if budget issues are worked out and work is allowed to continue in time.

Website

- Please “Like” and share our Lebanon Chamber Webpage and Facebook Page so that we can get the word out on all events:
 - Lebanon Chamber Webpage: <http://www.lebanonil.us/>
 - Lebanon Chamber Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lebanonilchamberofcommerce?fref=ts>
- Please provide as much detail and information as possible to Rebeca for updating our Chamber Facebook, Web Page and Community Calendar at rebeca.gabel@gmail.com. Goal is three posts or more each week for our events, please help us keep your events front and center! If you are not seeing your events on the Chamber website or FB, please let Rebeca know.

Upcoming Events

- *Women’s Club meets the 4th Thursday of every month at 7pm. Call Pam Martin at 537-4961 for more information.
- Jul 2—Car Show 5-9pm
- Jul 8 & 9—Fireman’s Picnic and Parade (Chamber of Commerce vehicle for parade)
- Jul 9—Lebanon High School Alumni soccer game, 9am at the LHS field
- Jul 29 – Triad & Area Alumni Football Game
- Aug 6—Car Show 5-9pm
- Aug 6 & 7--\$100 Merchant Giveaway
- Aug 13—Lions Club Golf Tournament
- Aug 20—Lions Club MS Walk
- Sep 3—Car Show 5-9pm
- Oct 1—Fall Festival
- Oct 8—Car Show 5-9pm
- Oct 22, 2016—Trunk or Treat
- Oct 30—Witches’ Night Out
- Nov 18 - Jan 1—Winter Wonderland of Lights
- November 18 & 19—Victorian Holiday
- December—Hometown Christmas
- Dec 9, 10, 11—A Christmas Carol at the Looking Glass Playhouse

Old Business

- We have received the Feasibility Study from the McKendree University Marketing Club, more to come on ways that we can use it. Anyone may access the Feasibility Study on the City of Lebanon website at <http://www.lebanonil.org/city/assets/city/Marketing%20Plan%20for%20Lebanon.pdf>
- Sound system for downtown; Dawn Ahner invited Bryan Peters from Alive Audio to present options and pricing for an outdoor PA system for our events. Bryan Peters will come back to present wireless proposal when he completes some other projects that are scheduled. TABLED.

New Business

- The Lebanon Beautification Committee headed by John and Bonnie Wright is looking for funding and most cost effective method to create a 501c3 nonprofit. Rebeca Gabel is looking into several options to establish a 501c3 so that we can apply for grants and provide tax exempt receipts for individuals or groups that want to donate to the Beautification Committee to refurbish the downtown area starting with the intersection. More to come.
- The following ads are due: Getting Settled Ad (\$80), Effingham Newspaper-Summer Fun (\$100), Illinois Tourism annual membership, and Looking Glass Playhouse Ad (\$65).

Around the Table/Open Discussion

- Currently have two customers under Visitor’s Center; 13 more referrals and Visitor’s Center can receive up to \$46 per month in free energy.
- Based on lower participation in this year’s Chamber of Commerce golf tournament, we will have to reduce donations and expenditures unless we can increase participation and fundraising events for the chamber.
- Christi Spargur from Scott AFB Public Affairs announced the Honorary Commander Program for civic leaders to partner with commanders on Scott AFB and facilitate business opportunities and information exchange. For more information, contact Christi at christine.spargur@us.af.mil.
- Al Gerdes invited all to stop by City Hall and provide any feedback to the city webpage at www.lebanonil.org.

- Joe Zimmerlee will have knee replacement surgery on July 12th and may not be at the July chamber meeting, depending on how his recovery is going.
- Barb Joy announced specials on CD's. Also stop by Farmers and Merchants National Bank for business loans at good rates.
- Carrie Christ announced that Police Station rehab project is don't for now! Signs are progressing on the south side of town.
- Barron Rana announced a sale on cakes and Dilly bars this weekend, and breakfast will now be served at Dairy Queen from 6am to 10:30am daily!
- Megan Rector from Regions Bank offers free financial presentations, looking to schedule 2 per week if you have a group that would benefit from presentations! Also, very good refi rates right now with Regions Bank.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 am.

Next Meeting: Jul 28, 2016 at Lebanon Visitor's Center downstairs at 8:00 am.

//signed//
Rebeca Gabel
Secretary

//signed//
Joe Zimmerlee
President