

## **Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes**

### **Attendees:**

APEX Network, Rachel Bush	State Farm, Jessica Zurliene
APEX Network, Lori Toennies	Whimsey Gifts, Margaret Pearson
CEC, Rebeca Gabel ( <b>Secretary</b> )	Al Gerdes
Christ Bros. Asphalt, Inc, Carrie Christ ( <b>Treasurer</b> )	Donelle Gless, Minerva
City Board and Alderman, Cheri Wright	Gail Kellermann, Minerva
Edward Jones, Paul Jansen	John Wright, Lebanon Beautification Committee
Lebanon Advertiser, Susan Meister	Sheree Williams, Minerva
Lebanon Women's Club, Pam Martin	Sieglinde Cleiman, Minerva
Legendary Creation, Janet Schmitt	
McKendree University, Michele Erschen	
Regions Bank, Megan Rector ( <b>Vice President</b> )	

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am at the Visitor's Center by the Vice President, Megan Rector. Joe Zimmerlee was recovering from knee replacement surgery.

Margaret Pearson led the invocation.

### **Guest speakers:**

- Mayor Wilken met with Illinois Tourism and the suggestion/idea of an Arts & Education themed event for Lebanon was discussed. Donelle Gless, owner of Minerva also suggested a jewelry design contest, and she could host a jewelry making activity. Several others suggested making it an area-wide art contest inviting schools to submit their art students for judging at Lebanon event. More to come.

### **Reports:**

#### **Treasurers Report:**

- Checking Account Balance as of 07/21/2016 was \$1,958.73
- Money Market account as of 07/06/16 was \$14,343.95
- Mortgage balance is \$3,983.81

#### **Secretary's Report**

- June meeting minutes approved.

#### **Visitors Center**

- Carrie Christ briefed for Joe that several advertisement renewals are coming due.
- 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.
- Lebanon author Jim Pransy has offered to make his books available for purchase at the Visitor's Center for \$10.99 with a 65/35 split to the Visitors Center.

#### **Merchants**

- Summer customer traffic has been very light. Please share our shops on your personal social media links and the Lebanon sites if you can.
- The Lebanon Commons businesses are hosting a Back to School Open House at the Lebanon Commons on Aug 4<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm with child finger painting, school supplies, giveaway bags, pictures with superheroes, face painting, treats and more!
- For more information about Merchant events, e-mail Holly Lovell at [thetiahouse@gmail.com](mailto:thetiahouse@gmail.com).

### **McKendree University—Michele Erschen**

- Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> there will be lots of faculty and students on campus. Mainly students in sports are back earlier than the main students.
- McKendree students start moving in Aug 25<sup>th</sup>, Classes start Aug 29<sup>th</sup>
- There will be 450 student volunteers looking for opportunities in the community on Aug 27<sup>th</sup>!

### **City (Cheri Wright)**

- City is doing a lot of work and discussion trying to balance the City budget.
- Fire Dept is still storing a lot of items in the old bays.
- Shuetz Street is almost done! Hope to be open before school year starts.

### **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](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month at 7pm. Call Pam Martin at 537-4961 for more information.
- Jul 28<sup>th</sup>...TODAY! Ribbon Cutting for Minerva Boutique at 208 W. St. Louis Street!
- Aug 27—Hills Golf Club Glow Ball Tournament
- Aug 27—450 McKendree students doing volunteer work!
- 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
- Dec 3—Hometown Christmas 10am-5pm
- Dec 9, 10, 11—A Christmas Carol at the Looking Glass Playhouse
- Jun 10, 2017—Save the date; Third Annual Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament!

### **Old Business**

- Rebeca Gabel is still working on 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 as the busy summer months are coming to an end to get started.

### **New Business**

- A motion was made and approved to add \$7,404 for the Visitor’s Center A/C unit into the Visitor’s Center mortgage which would bring our mortgage loan up to \$15,717.

### **Around the Table/Open Discussion**

- Jessica Zurliene announced back to school event at Lebanon Commons with school supplies and lots of giveaways and activities for the kids on Aug 4<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm.
- Rebeca Gabel still taking residential electric bills to go towards free energy for the Visitor’s Center.
- Cheri Wright mentioned a house fire in town, Brickstreet Brew is taking housewares and toy donations for girls aged 6 & 8 years old.
- Jessica Zurliene is also heading up an organization to raise much needed funds for our Lebanon police department to provide items that are not in the city budget for their funding. Look for a fundraiser on Sep 24<sup>th</sup>, more information to come.
- APEX is located at the Lebanon Commons with physical therapists on staff.

- Paul Jansen announced that Edward Jones office is hosting an Ice Cream Social today from 4-6pm!
- Al Gerdes reminded everyone that volunteers are needed in preparation for the Winter Wonderland of Lights. Opening Nov 18th!

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 am.**

Next Meeting: Aug 25th, 2016 at Lebanon Visitor's Center downstairs at 8:00 am.

//signed//  
Rebeca Gabel  
Secretary

//signed//  
Megan Rector  
Vice President