

Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

APEX, Stacy Strieker
APEX, Rachael Bush
CEC, Rebeca Gabel (**Secretary**)
Cedar Ridge, Lori Thrutchley
Christ Bros. Asphalt, Inc, Carrie Christ (**Treasurer**)
City Board and Alderman, Cheri Wright
Dairy Queen, Baron Rana (**President**)
Edward Jones, Paul Jansen
Emerald Mound Grange, Lori Henrichs
Heirloom Soapworks, Becky Rippelmeyer
Lebanon Historian/Mermaid House, Led Adams
Lebanon Women's Club, Pam Martin
Legendary Creations, Janet Schmitt
Looking Glass Playhouse, Jay Frey
Luckenbooth on Brick Street, Pauline McAllister
McKendree University, Michele Erschen
Regions Bank, Dallas Dixon
Scott AFB Public Affairs, Christine Spargur
State Farm, Jessica Zurliene (**Vice President**)
Tiadaughton House, Holly Lovell
Visitor's Center, Joe Zimmerlee
Whimsey Gifts, Margaret Pearson
John Wright

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

Invocation given by Margaret Pearson.

Guest speakers & Introductions of Guests: None

Reports:

Treasurers Report:

- Checking Account Balance as of 1/25/2016: \$4,848.08
- Money Market account as of 12/20/2017: \$11,854.86
- Mortgage balance is \$2,582.76
- Budget Notes:
 - Mailed annual report 1/25/2017
 - Signed Car Cruise contract for 2017
 - Stop Light Project: \$906.00 donated/\$906.00 paid
 - Poles purchased
 - City has signs and top lights
 - Requesting donations for lights that circle stop sign; call John Schieppe
 - Display case in front of Visitor's Center is being removed and alternative being sought.
 - Entrance Sign: Doug J. waiting for temps to be 50+ for multiple days in a row. Ready to begin North entrance design and we're ready to dig when weather permits. Blocks are painted and ready.
- Treasurers report approved.

Secretary's Report

- October and November meeting minutes approved.

Visitors Center

- New paper towel dispensers needed for restrooms in VC
- VC needs new outside display case, looking for suitable replacement
- Selling VC formal dishes for entertaining, as they are no longer used and take up a lot of storage space

Merchants

- Chocolate Rendezvous coming up on Feb 11, 10am-5pm. \$30 fee to participate & have chocolate items available in participating shops

McKendree University—Michele Erschen

- McKendree Metro Rec Plex is open and athletes are using facility
- Mar 4, Leadership Scholarship
- Call the Hett at 537-6863 for tickets to upcoming events.

City (Cheri Wright)

- City is trying to get brick street repaired, hard to find a contractor that will do piecework and not entire surface project
- Healthcare costs will be astronomical for city next year, a committee has been established to research and source the most affordable healthcare options available
- 505 Herman next to Eagle Scout Garden-house needs to be demolished
- Need new siren for next year's city budget

Website

- Please "Like" and share our Lebanon Chamber 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 pardon our mess as we update our Lebanon Chamber website with a new look and feel. Still pending domain transfer from Bluehost.

Upcoming Events

- Finalizing 2017 events to include on flyers, community calendar, and website as well as letter to City for street closures.
- Yoga studio ribbon cutting, date/time TBD

Old Business

- Lebanon Beautification Committee is still planning to establish Nonprofit 501c3 status for tax-deductible donations for upcoming beautification projects. John Wright has been in touch with Don Wagner, Brenda Cox will help with paperwork to get the application process going. POC John Wright or Rebeca Gabel
- New Chamber Website is almost ready to launch; will be posting new website as soon as possible.

New Business

- Updated listing for 2017 Chamber Officers available.
- 2017 Chamber memberships due Jan 31
- 2016 Annual Financial Reports need to be turned in by Jan 31, 2017.
- Need chamber events for next year so we can firm up 2017 Event Calendar and submit street closure request to City
- Discussed inviting home-based businesses to join Chamber and be included in Member Directory for \$50. Motion approved.
- Approval of 2017 Budget tabled until February chamber meeting.
- Potential Airshow fundraiser not an option for Scott AFB Air Show (only for on base organizations).
- Constant Contact marketing tool (free for Chamber of Commerce) will be used starting in March to distribute Chamber news and events. Please be on the lookout for Chamber news in your spam box and add it to your contacts so you won't miss upcoming meetings and events.

Around the Table/Open Discussion

- Rebeca Gabel mentioned scheduling Chamber of Commerce Member Breakfasts, Lunches & Business After Hours events for 2017. More to come on discussion and details.
- Jessica Zurliene of State Farm advised that rates are going up for insurance and to see her for a free quote and evaluation of your insurance coverages/policies.
- Lori from Emerald Mound Grange announced/reminded everyone of the Breakfast on Sunday, Jan 28· Adults \$8 & Kids \$5
- Mike Bennett provided several updates:
 - o Lebanon Food Pantry is joining the Chamber this year!
 - o There will be a Fat Tuesday Community Dinner on Feb 28th, 4:30-6:30 PM
 - o Lion's Club blood drive raised 18 pints of blood for local hospitals, many thanks to all donors
 - o UCC is hosting a spaghetti dinner on Apr 27th

- Multiple Sclerosis Trivia Night will be held on Apr 22
- Lebanon Woman's Club meets tonight at the new Fire Station at 6pm.
- Lebanon Woman's Club announced this year's fundraiser with Dave "Elvis" Ehlert on Apr 22, 7pm at the Looking Glass Playhouse. Dave will be performing a tribute to the Superstars (Elvis, Dean Martin, Roy Orbison, Prince and more! Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 on night of performance.
- Rachel introduced Stacy Strieker as the new branch manager at APEX.
- Holly Lovell asked everyone to share the Chocolate Rendezvous on Feb 11th on their personal and business social media to get the word out.
- Margaret Pearson invites everyone to contact her for your printing and promotional needs.
- Jay Frey announced that tickets can now be purchased online for Looking Glass Playhouse events on their website.
- Conrad Steinhoff with Lebanon Kids announced Rotary Club Pancake Breakfast at UMC, as well as Lebanon Kids Trivia Night fundraiser that will be held on Saturday, February 25th, doors open at 6:30pm at the St. Joseph Parish Hall.
- Susan Meister shared and congratulated Kendra Bass for her 1,000th point scored on Lebanon High School basketball team! Lebanon Public Library has purchased the old school building to be renovated for their next facility. Subscribe to the Lebanon Advertiser to be in the know on the latest happenings!
- Janet Schmitt thanked all volunteers and organizations that made the Lebanon Winter Wonderland happen this year. It was a huge success enjoyed by many people from the local area as well as from out of state! LWW is always looking for volunteers to make the light display bigger and better every year.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 am.

Next Meeting: Feb 23, 2017, in lower level of Lebanon Visitor's Center at 8:00 am.

//signed//
 Rebeca Gabel
 Secretary

//signed//
 Baron Rana
 President