

Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

APEX, Stacy Strieker
CEC, Rebeca Gabel (**Secretary**)
Dairy Queen, Baron Rana (**President**)
Farmers & Merchants Bank, Barb Joy
Lebanon Women's Club, Pam Martin
Lebanon Rotary, Jeff Thornton
Legendary Creations, Janet Schmitt
McKendree University, Michele Erschen

Prescription Plus True Value, Lou Schlaefer
State Farm, Jessica Zurliene (**Vice President**)
Visitor's Center, Joe Zimmerlee

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

Invocation given by Susan Meister

Guest speakers & Introductions of Guests: Lou Schlaefer presented numbers and options for LED light options for downtown (see new business). Jeff Thornton from Lebanon Rotary.

Reports:

Treasurers Report:

- Checking Account Balance as of 02/13/2017: \$1,678.85
- Money Market account as of 02/17/2017: \$15,857.41
- Mortgage balance is \$2,395.79
- Treasurers report approved.

Secretary's Report

- January meeting minutes approved.

Visitors Center

- New paper towel dispensers were purchased and installed the bathrooms, currently looking for new display case to display events and news.
- VC is open with enough volunteers for now, but we can always use more volunteers to answer the phone and greet visitors to Lebanon.
- There will be an open forum for a potential hotel in Lebanon on Mar 7, 9am in the VC meeting room downstairs.

Merchants

- Sip & Shop is next on Apr 6, 4-8 PM

McKendree University—Michele Erschen

- Check out the McKendree Gallery of Art for current and upcoming displays
- Mar 4, Leadership Scholarship, expect 100+ students and parents in town for scholarship activities
- Call the Hett at 537-6863 for tickets to upcoming events.
- Call 618-537-6873 for tickets and schedules of McKendree sport events.

City (Cheri Wright)

- There is a proposal to get an ordinance on the City agenda to allow a Queen of Hearts raffle for fundraising.

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. New site should be ready by March 1st for launch! Contact Rebeca Gabel at chamber@lebanonil.us with questions/requested updates.

Upcoming Events

Mar 20—Lebanon Dairy Queen Free Ice Cream Day...donations appreciated and go to support the Children's Miracle Network

Apr 6—Sip & Shop

May 6—May Market

May 13—Classic Car Cruise

Jun 3—City Wide Yard Sale

Jun 3—Classic Car Cruise

Jul 1—Classic Car Cruise

Jul 7/8—Fireman's Picnic & Parade

Aug 5—Classic Car Cruise

Sep 2—Classic Car Cruise

Oct 7—Fall Festival

Oct 14—Classic Car Cruise

Oct 19-21—Haunted Happenings

Oct 21—Trunk or Treat

Oct 29—Witches Night Out

Nov 17-Dec31—Winter Wonderland of Lights

Nov 17/18—Victorian Holiday

Dec 2—Hometown Christmas

Dec 8, 9, 10—A Christmas Carol (LGP)

Old Business

- Lebanon Beautification Committee still working on nonprofit status. More to come, POC John Wright and Rebeca Gabel.
- New Chamber Website is ready to launch, plan is Mar 1st for new site.

New Business

- 2017 budget approved.
- Letter is ready for city for 2017 street closures.
- New home-based business category to be included in Member Directory for \$50 annual membership approved.
- Discussed and approved new business ribbon cutting procedures. All new businesses will be offered a ribbon cutting regardless of whether they are a member of the Chamber. We will work with the business owner on the best date and time to conduct the ribbon cutting to fit their needs and preferences for maximum benefit. A press release form will be completed prior to the ribbon cutting where feasible to make the announcement of each new business.
- Discussed and approved a monthly networking event for Chamber members and the community. We will publish a schedule on the Chamber website and community calendar rotating Business over Breakfast, Member Luncheon, and Business After Hours.
- Please add correspondence from the new Chamber Constant Contact to your contacts so that you will receive Chamber e-mails and updates for this year. With this tool, we can offer improved privacy and more professional e-mails suitable for sharing for Chamber events.
- Discussed LED light upgrades for decorating the streets during the holidays, Lou Schlaefer presented pricing and recommendations requested by Joe Zimmerlee. **(Tabled)**

Around the Table/Open Discussion

- Michele Erschen discussed potential Queen of Hearts fundraiser, Nashville, IL has had huge success with this fundraiser. To do one in Lebanon, an ordinance will have to be passed by the City to allow a raffle.
- Lou Schlaefer announced possible music on the corner at Prescriptions Plus/True Value in May or June, will be a fundraiser, more to come. He also asked if the Ladies Night Out conflicts with Victorian Holiday in November.
- Pam Martin announced Lebanon Woman’s Club meeting at Cathy Symonds tonight, contact any of our members for tickets to the LWC fundraiser at the Looking Glass Playhouse on Apr 22, 7pm, \$15 per person, \$13 for students, \$20 at the door.
- Jessica Zurliene announced Fire Dept will still have their annual Golf Tournament fundraiser on May 20th in Carlisle due to the Hills golf course closure.
- Michele Erschen mentioned that with our golf course closing, Cardinal Creek Golf Course on Scott AFB can offer golfing packages/memberships and they will sponsor golfers on base. They may also offer tournament deals.
- Baron announced Lebanon Dairy Queen Free Ice Cream Cone day on Mar 20th, all donations will go to support the Children’s Miracle Network!

Meeting Adjourned at 9:30 am.

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

//signed//
Rebeca Gabel
Secretary

//signed//
Baron Rana
President