

Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

APEX, Stacy Strieker
Christ Bros. Asphalt, Inc, Carrie Christ (**Treasurer**)
CEC, Rebeca Gabel (**Secretary**)
Cedar Ridge, Ashley Huels
Cedars of Lebanon, Nichole Myers
City of Lebanon, Cheri Wright
City of Lebanon Mayor, Rich Wilken
Dairy Queen, Baron Rana (**President**)
Farmers and Merchants Bank, Shirley Haus
Lebanon Advertiser, Susan Meister
Lebanon CUSD #9, Patrick Keeney
Lebanon CUSD #9, Jeff Teasley
Lebanon Kids, Conrad Steinhoff

Lebanon Rotary, Jeff Thornton
Legendary Creations, Janet Schmitt
Looking Glass Playhouse, Len Adams
McKendree University, Michele Erschen
Robin's Nest, Robin Schultze
State Farm, Jessica Zurliene (**Vice President**)
Visitors Center, Joe Zimmerlee
Whimsey Gifts/Pearson Printing, Margaret Pearson
Volunteer, Melissa "Missy" Mitchell

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 am at the Visitor's Center by Baron Rana, President.

Invocation by Mike Bennett

Guest Speakers & Introductions of Guests:

Patrick Keeney, LUCSD #9 Superintendent, Jeff Teasley, Lebanon Elementary Principle, and two students from the schools attended to provide an update. Student body representatives Kalie and Katie provided updates on the flood damage repairs and renovations that were completed over the summer due to the flooding, as well as the new science lab and upcoming school sporting events.

Mayor Wilken also attended to provide an economic development update. City is taking bids to demolish property on Herman Street. 2017/2018 budget is solid for the city, with a new line item created for use in economic development. Mayor Wilken would like to work with the Chamber to undertake significant marketing efforts throughout the St. Louis metropolitan area. The City would like to work closely with the Chamber to move towards the goal of a \$10K refurb of the street car at Cedar Ridge and have it moved to the square to help make the Lebanon downtown area a destination spot for visitors and travelers.

Reports:

Treasurers Report:

- Checking Account Balance as of 8/23/2017: \$1,955.88
- Money Market account as of 8/23/2017: \$11,082.07
- Mortgage balance: \$1,052.24
- Treasurer's report approved.

Secretary's Report

- July meeting minutes approved.

Visitors Center

- A/C continues to work for now, a plan is in place to replace if it does not continue to work for the rest of the summer or to replace in the spring.
- 600 dishes were sold to Luckenbooth for \$101, there are additional silverware sets available for donations at the Visitors Center.
- Aug 3 visit went well with Cory Jobes from IL Tourism, hopefully some great promotion of Lebanon to come.

- There are 72 chamber members this year, down considerably from last year. Please encourage businesses to join so that we can continue to provide marketing for all of our businesses. Individual and family memberships are also available.

Merchants

- Dickens Fest Saturday, Sep 23, 2017 with plans to have horse and carriage rides, a bounce house, and family friendly activities. Len Adams and another volunteer from the Historical Society have graciously agreed to ride in the carriages and give a historical tour of Lebanon on the route for visitors!

McKendree University—Michele Erschen

- Call the Hett at 537-6863 for tickets to upcoming events, new season on McKendree website and Facebook
- Call 618-537-6873 for tickets and schedules of McKendree sport events
- Gallery of Art invites all artists to: Get Out! Paint Out! Aug 8 from 4:00-6:00; exhibit of works will be held on Aug 17-Sept 17 with public reception Aug 31 from 5:00-8:00 pm. Find registration online.
- Aug 26th will be McKendree Into the Streets volunteer event
- Sep 29th will be McKendree Homecoming

City (Cheri Wright)

- All of the construction/trenching around town is the installation of Clearwave Internet for the Lebanon Schools and McKendree University.
- Still awaiting demolition order on Brad and Deb's building next to Ahner's Florist shop.
- City is taking bids for demolition of 505/503 Herman Street next to community garden.

Website

- Chamber news and minutes are distributed via Constant Contact, please add chamber@lebanonil.us to your contacts to ensure delivery and contact Rebeca Gabel if you need to be added to e-mail distribution list.
- "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>

Upcoming Events

Aug 27—Emerald Mound Grange BBQ Pork Steak Dinner 4-7pm
 Aug 29—11am to 2pm McKendree Involvement Fair
 Aug 31—Lebanon Rotary Club Happy Hour at the Foundry, 6 pm to 7:30pm, open to all!
 Sep 2—Lakers Classic Car Cruise
 Sep 23—Dickens Fest
 Sep 23—Ron's Lounge is celebrating their 50th Anniversary, come see the Clydesdale and say congrats!
 Oct 7—Fall Festival, contact Cheri Wright for booths or to volunteer for setup/teardown
 Oct 14—Lakers Classic Car Cruise
 Oct 14—Lions Club Candy Day at intersection
 Oct 20-21—Haunted Happenings Looking Glass Playhouse
 Oct 21—Trunk or Treat 5-8pm
 Oct 29—Witches Night Out
 Nov 17-Dec31—Lebanon's Winter Wonderland
 Nov 17/18—Victorian Holiday 25th Anniversary
 Dec 2—Hometown Christmas
 Dec 8, 9, 10—A Christmas Carol (LGP)

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Nichole Myers and Missy Mitchell volunteered to chair Lebanon Victorian Holiday, Christina Dickey will continue to handle live entertainment and Rebeca Gabel is coordinating carriage rides and volunteers. Committee will begin meeting immediately to kick off this year's event planning! Huge thanks to Nichole and Missy for volunteering!

Around the Table/Open Discussion

- Mayor Wilken announced that a permit has been issued for a contract to work on warehouse in town.
- Jessica Zurlienne thanked everyone for the donations and support for the Back To School Fair which we hope to continue next year and possibly expand to more grades than K-5. The project was a great success and raised over \$6K for supplies for the kids who qualify for free or reduced meals at school. There was approximately \$400 remaining to cover all costs, donations can be made out to the Lebanon Chamber of Commerce for reimbursement to Jessica. Contact Carrie Christ if you would like to write a check for remaining expenses, and to see if there is any need for additional donations.
- Mr. Keeney and Mr. Teasley thanked Jessica Zurlienne and the Chamber for the hard work and efforts to hold the Back to School Fair, which helped 79 students receive their school supplies. It was a great help to the school district and greatly reduced the stress for faculty in helping all kids to be prepared for the school year.
- Carrie Christ let everyone know that the signs coming into town are still being worked.
- Lebanon Winter Wonderland needs volunteers for light display planning and handy work on deck railing for the hut. Contact Janet Schmitt at Legendary Creations if you would like to volunteer.
- Len Adams from Looking Glass Playhouse and Lebanon Historical Society provided updates:
 - o Brochures for the 2017-2018 Season, they are also available at the Visitor's Center.
 - o Mermaid House tours and Historical Society narrators are good to go for Dickens Fest/Sep 23.
 - o Mermaid House has a new mailing address, 114 E St Louis Street, Lebanon IL 62254.
 - o If anyone has any historical items that they received from Donna Monroe, please contact Len to get them added to the archives.
- Nichole advised that the Cedars of Lebanon have completed interior renovations and are now turning attention to exterior improvements to include landscaping and a gazebo. Stop by any time to see all of the improvements.
- Robin Schultze thanked everyone who came out for the Robin's Nest Antique shop last week, she is excited to be open and realizing a dream to have her own shop!
- Margaret Pearson announced Tiadaughton House is having their 4th anniversary on Saturday, Sep 4th...be sure to stop by for great treats and prize drawings!
- Ashley Huels announced that Cedar Ridge has been having great success with their homeward bound program and have helped over 100 residents to recover and return home!
- Susan Meister from Lebanon Advertiser showed everyone the eclipse edition of the Lebanon Advertiser which was fantastic. The Lebanon Advertiser provides lots of coverage to keep people in the know about what's happening with the school and town. To subscribe to the Lebanon Advertiser, stop by Whimsey Gifts!
- Missy Mitchell welcomes everyone to stop by the Visitor Center and let her know if you have any updates to your menus or business flyers that need to be included in Visitor Center handouts and information!
- Mike Bennett thanked everyone who supported the Lions Club golf tournament, \$4,500 was raised to support scholarships. Mike would also like to talk to someone about getting power fixed at the square for upcoming holidays and Lions Club Christmas tree sales.
- Conrad Steinhoff from Lebanon Kids provided updates, they are in their 10th year of doing great things for the kids in Lebanon
 - o Programs include after school tutoring, as well as a summer outreach program for 25-30 kids
 - o Program relies on contributions to continue to pay their director, all other positions are filled by volunteers, many of which come from McKendree University; students who participate in a work study and make our program possible.
- Jeff Thornton from Lebanon Rotary:
 - o Lebanon Rotary will host an open house at the Foundry on Thursday, Aug 31st from 6:00 to 7:30 pm for all chamber and non-chamber members and the public who would like to come and meet the Rotary and talk about ideas to help the community.
 - o The Lebanon Rotary is doing great things for our community, they were able to provide 115 headsets for the grade school including 20 with microphones for the computer classes!
- Mr. Teasley shared the Student of the Month program at Lebanon Elementary School, and thanked Dairy Queen for their sponsoring of coupons and treats. If any businesses would like to donate items to LES for goody bags to give to Student of the Month recipients, contact Mr. Teasley at 537-4553.
- Cheri Wright shared that D & D Nail Salon will be opening in the TBow office building. The owner has a nail salon in New Baden as well.

- Susan Meister announced a reception for the awards and display to be held at the McKendree University Gallery of Art on Aug 31
- Baron reported that Dairy Queen is now hiring, taking applications. The most recent fundraiser for Children's Miracle Network raised approximately \$7,000!
- Rebeca Gabel asked if anyone has two portable sound systems for Dickens Fest on Sep 23, please contact her at 618-610-2509 if you have one that we can borrow for the narrators to use on the carriage rides.
- Mayor Wilken wanted to recognize our great Lebanon police force, they were instrumental in providing the investigative work that has led to the indictment of bank robbers! They also recently helped a lady change her tire and get her back on the road safely. Please thank our police when you have the opportunity for the excellent work that they do helping to keep us safe!

Meeting Adjourned at 9:15 am.

Next Meeting: Oct 28, 2017, in lower level of Lebanon Visitor's Center at 8:00 am.

//signed//
Rebeca Gabel
Secretary

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Baron Rana
President