

Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Atomy, Rebeca Gabel (**Secretary**)
Christ Bros. Asphalt, Inc, Carrie Christ (**Treasurer**)
Cedars of Lebanon, Tina Schrader
City of Lebanon, Cheri Wright
Lebanon Advertiser, Susan Meister
Lebanon High School Student, Kaylee Gaines
Lebanon Jr HS, Kaitlyn Acheson
Lebanon CUSD #9, Supt Patrick Keeney
Lebanon Lions Club, Mike Bennett
Lebanon Rotary, Jeff Thornton
Lebanon Winter Wonderland, Barb Joy
Lebanon Woman's Club, Pam Martin
Legendary Creations, Janet Schmitt

Looking Glass Playhouse, Len Adams
McCleery Safe Storage, Jeanne and Paul McCleery
McCleery Safe Storage, Keith Shovlin
McKendree University, Michele Erschen
Robin's Nest, Robin Schultze
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 Rebeca Gabel, Secretary.

Invocation by Mike Bennett

Guest Speakers & Introductions of Guests:

LCUSD#9 students Kaithlyn Acheson (LJHS) and Kaylee Gaines (LHS) provided an update on cheerleading tryouts, basketball tryouts, and October homecoming. The school district superintendent, Patrick Keeney also encouraged everyone to visit and "Like" the SCUSD9 Facebook page to keep up to date with school events and updates!

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

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

- Need nominating committee to present a slate of officers for next year's Chamber of Commerce officers, to be voted on in October's meeting.
- Lakers Car Show was discussed for continued participation in 2018, approved.
- Karen Rowens will be retiring from maintaining and decorating the island at Hwy 50 & Rt 4. Budget of \$300 is approved for next year. Anyone interested in taking over maintenance of island please contact Carrie Christ at 537-6174.
- Motion was made, seconded, and approved \$50 for Lions Candy Day.
- It was discussed for Chamber to partner with City of Lebanon, Lebanon Beautification Committee and Lebanon Historical Society to assist with publicity and solicitation of funds to begin work on the trolley rehab project. Lebanon Historical Society will discuss at their next meeting, for the possibility of accepting nonprofit status donations toward this project for tax purposes of donors. Tabled for October meeting.

Around the Table/Open Discussion

- Pam Martin from Lebanon Woman's Club announced their first meeting for the new board is tonight, Sep 28, 7PM at the Foundry Café & Market. Monthly meetings will be held at the Foundry for the coming year.
- Susan Meister from the Lebanon Advertiser encouraged everyone to attend City Council meetings on Monday nights if they have concerns about our city government. Susan attends the meetings and captures the proceedings to be printed in the Lebanon Advertiser, subscribe to stay up to date on City issues, school events, and much more!
- Len Adams made the following announcements:
 - o Tonight starts the 2nd week of the Hunchback of Notre Dame at the Looking Glass Playhouse!
 - o There will be a Mermaid House Inn Facebook Group coming!
 - o Ron Mitchell will be painting the back building of the Mermaid House Inn.
- Janet Schmitt announced the Friends of Lebanon Fire Department will be having a Breakfast on Nov 5th
- Mike Bennet:
 - o There is an Elvis Jail House Rock concert in Trenton, \$10 per person on Saturday night
 - o Bob Ellison will be singing at Dairy Queen in O'Fallon
- Barb Joy announced that volunteers are needed for decorating and taking donations at Lebanon Winter Wonderland starting Nov 17th through Dec 31.

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

//signed//
Baron Rana
President