

## Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

### Attendees:

Atomy, Rebeca Gabel ( <b>President</b> )	Lebanon Public Library, Ramona Witte
State Farm, Jessica Zurliene ( <b>Vice President</b> )	Lebanon Rotary, Jeff Thornton
Christ Bros. Asphalt, Carrie Christ ( <b>Treasurer</b> )	Lebanon Women's Club, Pam Martin
City of Lebanon, Cheri Wright ( <b>Correspondence</b> )	Legendary Creations, Janet Schmitt
Meridith Funeral Home, Brenda Pehle ( <b>Secretary</b> )	McKendree University, Michele Erschen
Cedar Ridge, Ashley Huels	O'Fallon Weekly, Nick Miller
Emerald Mound Grange, Mark Henrichs	Robin's Nest Antiques, Robin Schultze
John Wright Realty, John Wright	Visitor's Center, Joe Zimmerlee
Lebanon Advertiser, Susan Meister	Volunteer Coordinator, Melissa "Missy" Mitchell
Lebanon Historical Society, Mark Godwin	Whimsey Gifts, Margaret Pearson
	Al Gerdes (?)

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am at the Visitor's Center by Rebeca Gabel, President.

Invocation was led by Joe Zimmerlee.

### Reports:

#### **Lebanon School District #9**

- None

#### **Treasurers Report**

**(Handout)**

- Checking as of 5/23/2018: \$1,221.58; Money Market balance: \$48,210.77.
- Queen of Hearts is up to \$31,085.00.
- 2017 tax bill was \$667.82.
- Carrie spoke with Doug Johansen; delay with sign is due to very busy schedule.
- A/C was fixed at cost of \$243.36.
- Chamber approved \$150.00 for replacement of Mary Renfro memorial tree hit by recent storm (John Wright/Missy Mitchell).
- Chamber agreed to give \$500.00 seed money toward square project (Pam Martin/Carrie Christ).

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

- Minutes were approved with updated list of attendees for April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting (Ashley Huels).

#### **Visitor's Center**

- Volunteers are needed especially Friday and Saturday, as well as substitutes. Missy is going to look into possible intern for Visitor's Center.
- Joe said the shed was cleaned out and there are chairs and votive candles for the taking. He added that freon for the outside compressor that cools the upstairs is expensive but the A/C should gimp along for the summer. Meanwhile, he is gathering proposals for a new unit.
- The library will utilize the Center's basement several times during the summer reading program.
- The Advertiser had a nice tribute to Betty Wilyard.
- There is interest in updating the Chamber's trifold brochure of Lebanon.

#### **Merchants**

- May Market had 82 vendors, four more than planned. Merchants provided muffins and water to vendors, which was a nice touch! While one commented that attendance appeared to be down

from last year, it was noted that 549 cyclists came through town for the Stooges ride, and Robin counted 333 visitors through Robin's Nest during the day. Next year, Bike Surgeon has asked to set up a bike display for people to try out bikes. Merchants will work toward providing a food coupon to encourage more cyclists to stay for Market.

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

- School's Out!

### **City - Cheri Wright**

- Brad & Deb's is down to the concrete pad!
- The expanded TIF has been approved.
- St. Paul UCC's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and Rev. Don Wagner's 25<sup>th</sup> year as pastor are being celebrated June 10.

### **Website**

- The Website is up-to-date, and Cobblestone has submitted an application for membership.

### **Upcoming Events - Additions to the calendar:**

- St. Paul UCC's Celebration June 10
- DQ will host Chamber Lunch on June 1 at 11:30am
- Summer Reading program runs June 11-July 14
- Greater Mt. Olive Missionary Baptists Church is host to Vacation Bible School June 18-22

### **Old Business**

- John showed Beautification Committee drawing of Square improvements; first phase will be the serpentine path, which leaves center of quadrant open for events and groups. Earthtones is donating equipment; volunteers will cut the path within week. The location of the visionary Veteran Tribute will go on the southwest corner.
- Trolley restoration is a guestimate \$30,000-\$50,000. While work on site may generate interest, it may be more prudent to have the trolley moved to an indoor location for uninterrupted progress. The depot is essential to preserve the finished rail car; at this time, it is not known if an allowance would be granted for the structure.
- Goody bags have been ordered; merchants may supply flyers and other donated items.
- The Grange will host the next Business Breakfast/Lunch/After Hours. Rebeca will check dates to avoid conflict with upcoming holidays and the Picnic.
- As Queen of Hearts money is raised, projects will be considered. Monies will be spread among different projects, not devoted to just one area of improvement.
- The Hett 2018-19 season publication was produced in house, and it very fine quality.

### **New Business**

- Jessica Zurliene officially owns property that neighbors RP Lumber, and is making available 2400 sq ft for new businesses. She is fielding interests for "mom and pop" businesses and possible bakery. The tree line that blocks the side of the lot is not part of TIF.
- Ribbon cutting dates are needed for RP Lumber, Fezziwigs, Frazier Endodontics and Cobblestone. Staged Ribbon Cutting for the O'Fallon Weekly will follow June's Chamber meeting.

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

- Meridith Funeral Home is anticipating completed exterior work by end of May, with landscaping to follow.
- Applications are required for all participants in the Fireman's Picnic Parade. Cheri has forms.

- Victorian Holiday planning will offer open sponsorship this year for poinsettias, banners, etc. There will be best theme competition and decorated trees. The committee is expanding music/entertainment and adding a parade on Saturday. Committee meetings will start in July.
- Al Gerdes (LWI – sign contract – Pearl/St. Louis power) is making equipment available for repurposing either for sale to the merchants or Victorian Holiday, or to be used out at Horner Park for Lebanon’s Winter Wonderland
- BND did not highlight Cedar Ridge’s 5 Star rating or do justice to any local nursing home. At present, they are full with 15 on a wait list. Ashley added that they are working with local doctors and hospitals to overcome Medicare restrictions/limits.
- The Grange is fully air conditioned now; they will host a BBQ on June 21 from 4-7pm.
- Rebeca has more time to devote to facials now that she is done with the semester.
- Jessica also has applications for the Firman’s Parade and is facilitating a Chapter 1 Project for the Back-to-School program after Chamber meeting. State Farm has reduced rates; call to get a quote.
- Joe Zimmerlee distributed copies of the 1999 brochure and conceded while it may not have same appeal in the digital age, it is still a good resource and worthy of updating.
- (Quarter page ad for upcoming events)
- Margaret Pearson mentioned Lebanon Rotary meet and greet dinner on May 31st, 6pm at The Cobblestone.
- Robin likes new location for Robin’s Nest; she is making oils available for retail that were once a special order.
- Ramona announced the summer reading program will feature a visit by the Pickin Chicken author, a travel under the sea theme one week, and Chris the Magician among other activities throughout the summer program. The program is geared for children entering grades K-5.
- Pam shared that the Women’s Club will install Abbey Murphy as the new president that very evening. She is chairing the annual drawing for the Fireman’s Picnic, which will be along the lines of grilling/smoking package.
- Abbey and Stephanie are in charge of the June 2 Community Yard Sale. To date, there are 25 signed up for the digital map; deadline to sign up is May 27.

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:41 am.**

Next Meeting is June 28 at 8:30am, in lower level of Lebanon Visitor’s Center.

//signed//  
 Brenda Pehle  
 Secretary

//signed//  
 Rebeca Gabel  
 President

**Note:**

Chamber news and minutes are distributed via Constant Contact. Please add [chamber@lebanonil.us](mailto:chamber@lebanonil.us) to your contacts to ensure delivery, and contact Rebeca Gabel if you need to be added to our e-mail list. 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>