

July 26, 2018

Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Atomy, Rebeca Gabel (President)	Lions Club, Mike Bennett
Christ Bros. Asphalt, Carrie Christ (Treasurer)	LGP/Historian/Mermaid House, Len Adams
City of Lebanon, Cheri Wright (Correspondence)*	McKendree University, Michele Erschen
Meridith Funeral Home, Brenda Pehle (Secretary)	O'Fallon Weekly, Nick Miller
Cedars of Lebanon, Tonie Moore	Visitor's Center, Joe Zimmerlee**
Emerald Mound Grange, Mindy Schiefer	Volunteer Coordinator, Melissa "Missy" Mitchell
Emerald Mound Grange, Charles Treser	
Fezziwig's, Tim Moore	
John Wright Realty, John Wright	*Dropped in before meeting
Lebanon Historical Society, Mark Godwin	**Excused mid-meeting
Lebanon Rotary, Jeff Thornton	
Lebanon Winter Wonderland, Barbara Joy	

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

Mike Bennett led invocation.

Reports:

Lebanon School District #9

- None

Treasurers Report

(Handout)

- Balance as of 7/24/18 - Checking: \$1,617.88; Money Market: \$65,234.46.
- Chamber will come out flush with hail damaged roof replacement and insurance payment.
- Bagworms were sprayed, landscaping was preened and exterior was washed recently.
- Joe replaced the broken bench.
- Interest income is double from what it is usually mid-year, credited to the Queen of Hearts pot.

Secretary's Report

- Approved.

Visitor's Center

- Visitor's Center is enjoying summer traffic; there is always need for additional volunteer staff.
- One of the twin yew shrub pots was taken from the Center's main entry; the loss was reported to police.

Merchants

- Tim is working on website.
- Christmas in July was deemed a success; Tim said patronage was best since May Market.
- Grin and Tonic opening date is still TBA.
- Illinois South Tourism Times (handout) Fall publication will be on hand at Visitor's Center.
- All Chamber members are welcome to attend 10 am meeting Monday, August 13th in the Visitor's Center, regarding expressed interest in filming the town.

McKendree University

- McKendree Involvement Fair is August 29th from 11-2 in the center of campus. Tables are available for \$35. To impress the students, the Chamber will be represented, handing out flyers with service hour information and candy left over from the Parade.
- Students move on campus August 22nd, joining athletes and other early arrivals. New students will go "Into the Streets" for 5-7 hours of community service on Saturday, August 25th. Garden Club, Beautification Committee and other organizations seeking good volunteer help should contact McKendree's Volunteer Center.
- Hett season and event tickets go on sale August 29th.
- Homecoming weekend is October 26-28th.

City

- Highway improvements east of main intersection are mostly completed. Road work slated for stretch from intersection of Hwys 50/4 west to Reider Road will begin August 20th, with crew on site from 9am-3pm daily. Milling and paving work will take about two weeks, but the guardrail replacement work will extend the project. Take note of work hours and avoid use of this road when possible.
- A footprint of the new grocery store shows two entrances, one facing the Mexican Restaurant, and the second looking at Dollar General.

Website

- Rebeca reminded members to submit changes and additions to the website, and welcomes Stephanie McPeek as co-admin for the Chamber Facebook page.

Upcoming Events

- The Home-Based and Small Business Fair, hosted at the Grange, has been moved to September 8th. There will be 15 booths, activities for children downstairs during the 10am-4pm hours of operation, and sandwiches and simple food for sale to vendors and visitors alike.
- Lions Club candy day weekend is August 12-13; all fearless car dodging help is welcome. The scholarship golf tournament has 80 registered thus far, and space available for the August 11th event.
 - Tim Moore noted that on a recent road trip, he tuned into the AM radio station about Arcola, as advertised on interstate, and suggested the Chamber might look into something similar for Lebanon Chamber events at our interstate markers.

Old Business

- Beautification work on northwest quadrant has been delayed until August 4th. Once started, our local papers will report the initiated improvements and kick start interest in funding and donations for the Veteran's Memorial quad. There is general agreement that funding of projects from the Queen of Hearts proceeds will wait until the fundraiser ends November 1st.
- Carrie reported Doug Johansen has quad signage letters cut for powder coating, and the Women's Club plaques done.
- In addition to the tree replacements honoring the memory of Mary Renfro and in tribute to McKendree's President Dennis, the tree dedicated to Joe Zimmerlee's service also needs to be replaced come Fall.

Around the Table/Open Discussion

- Rebeca has been tied up with moving but remains on top of Chamber website and promotions.
- Missy passed out Victorian Holidays handout, asking everyone to fill in their plans for the weekend and offer suggestions and comments. She wants to hear any/all ideas, including featured

menu/drink specials, and will run with John's suggestion for a residential decorating competition. The planning committee has approached the City for permission to erect a stage for performers and is working on a bay warming area for actors. An illuminated parade is planned for Friday night and Saturday afternoon will have its own unique parade without interfering with customer street parking.

- Tim brought up the faded City Hall mural; Carrie has initiated discussion about white washing the weathered pictorial until it can be redone.
- Len announced this weekend's performance of a Rocky Horror Picture Show, and the free choreography workshop for kids. The new season's brochure is now available, and Len will be approaching people personally to ask for LGP sponsorship. Haunted Happenings is being promoted in Belleville and O'Fallon Park is site for August 25th Illinois Historical Society's Bicentennial, with Mark Godwin demonstrating trains and Len speaking about Dickens. The July 19th virtual tour of the Mermaid House is ready for review and editing. Dues for Historical Society membership are a bargain at \$2. Lastly, Len said he was disappointed that Lebanon segment of Ghost Adventures was cancelled. Mark added that they will be involved with Victorian Holidays, offering cookies, coffee and wassail, and showing off a new vintage stove. Additional lighting across street is desired to entice visitors to the east side of the main road.
- Added signage pointing to Mermaid House and Horner Park will be added to agenda under new business.
- Jeff said local and district Rotary have taken seriously need for disaster response in the event of an emergency and is currently looking into suitable space to use as a volunteer reception center. This space would be used to vet volunteers and assist in training and management of volunteers. Training and preparedness as a response team goes beyond mitigating a crisis in Lebanon to helping a neighboring community in an emergency situation.
- John commented about the remarkable community support and participation in our town. Additionally, he suggested that the Chamber consider a donation to the Fire Department to cut financial loss of the rain out on Saturday. Carrie and Joe will review the finances and Chamber budget and come back to discuss the idea at the August meeting.
- Rebeca shared that a Visitor Center volunteer proposed the Chamber put together a coupon mailer to hand out to new residents to introduce the merchants and services in town. She added that it should contain a cover letter signed by the Mayor and Chamber president, welcoming people to Lebanon. Discussion moved quickly from mailing the articles to a consensus for distributing them from City Hall when someone puts a deposit down for water, utilizing the recently acquired goody bags (Carrie/Brenda).

Meeting Adjourned at 9:30 am, to stage ribbon cutting at Fezziwig's.

Next Meeting is August 23rd. Come at 8 am for continental breakfast co-hosted by the Grange and Meridith Funeral Home; business meeting to begin at 8:30am.

//signed//

Brenda Pehle, Secretary

//signed//

Rebeca Gabel, President

Take Note: 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 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>