

August 23, 2018

## Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

### Attendees:

Atomy, Rebeca Gabel ( <b>President</b> )	Lebanon Public Library, Ramona Witte
Christ Bros. Asphalt, Carrie Christ ( <b>Treasurer</b> )	Lebanon Women's Club, Laura Diesen
Meridith Funeral Home, Brenda Pehle ( <b>Secretary</b> )	Legendary Creations, Janet Schmitt
Cedars of Lebanon, Tonie Moore	Looking Glass Playhouse/LHS, Len Adams
Dairy Queen, Baron Rana	McKendree University, Michele Erschen
Emerald Mound Grange, Mindy Schiefer	McKendree University, Robert Watkins
Emerald Mound Grange, Charles Treser	O'Fallon Weekly, Carol Goodnight
Gateway East Trails, George Fero	Pearson Printing, Margaret Pearson
John Wright Realty, John Wright	Robin's Nest Antiques, Robin Schultze
Lebanon Historical Society, Mark Godwin	Visitor's Center, Robert Lee
Lebanon Kids, Conrad Steinhoff	Visitor's Center, Joe Zimmerlee

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am at the Visitor's Center by Rebeca Gabel, President. Rebeca extended thanks to Emerald Mound Grange and Meridith Funeral Home for providing breakfast at 8am to kick off the meeting.

Joe Zimmerlee led invocation.

Around the table introduction of attendees followed.

### Reports:

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

- None

#### **Treasurers Report**

**(Handout)**

- Balance 8/20/2018: Checking: \$1,144.49; Money Market: \$73,249.32.
- As of 8/9 the Queen of Hearts pot is \$47,651.00, with the Chamber's take at \$13,172.60.
- Carrie asked to run the City Hall mural project expenses through the Chamber account. Funds for the new facia are being donated. Motion approved.

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

- July Minutes were approved.

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

- Joe reported that the 2018 tax assessment of \$24,545 represents a lower property and building value.
- He confirmed rumors about a meeting of locals with a film producer recently. Andrew Jones wants to make a movie about a small-town girl who aspires to be a magician and incorporate footage of Lebanon and local residents in the film. The positive exchange holds promise for filming in Spring, 2019.

## **Merchants**

- Robin highlighted that this is the one year anniversary of Robin's Nest, and 5<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of Tiadaghton House, who is holding an open house this weekend. It's hoped that the new restaurant will open by the end of September.
- The question was raised about availability of the vacant lot on W. St. Louis St, and interest for turning it into additional parking on the Brick Street. With concern that the prospect will slip through the cracks, both Carrie and John agreed to make necessary contacts to advocate for the Chamber.

## **McKendree University**

Michele offered thanks for the welcome extended to new students and said there is signage available for businesses and organizations to display. In addition to *Into the Streets* and the Involvement Fair upcoming, Hett season tickets are available August 29<sup>th</sup>. Football season starts September 1<sup>st</sup> and Homecoming weekend is October 27-29<sup>th</sup>. Robert Watkins, a graduate student, attended the Merchant and City Hall meetings recently and will be working on town-gown relations. Bob Lee posed ideas for a haunted trail event, hay ride along cemetery and costume 5K run/walk event in conjunction with McKendree events.

## **City**

- Highways 4/50 project has been delayed because of recent weather but targeted to be completed November 2018.

## **Website**

- Rebeca is keeping up with events and activities to share and boost coverage in the community and asks for members to read with keen eyes and let her know of typos and errors. Stephanie McPeck owner of Foundry is admin for the Facebook page.

## **Upcoming Events**

- The same keen eyes are needed to ensure calendar corrections and updates.
- The home-based/small business fair is being postponed for time being.
- RP Lumber has ribbon cutting scheduled; the public grand opening is slated for September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Request to be Victorian Holiday sponsors is due by September 1<sup>st</sup>. It was suggested that a flyer be made to distribute within surrounding communities, including gas stations, nearby hotels and grocery stores.
- Emerald Mound Grange is holding the Hempel Magic Show on November 11 at 2pm. Tickets are available from Grange members for \$8.
- See chamber website and community calendar for a complete listing of upcoming events.

## **Old Business**

- There is progress at the Square. Thanks to Earthtones for donating equipment, time and mulch for the path. There is also a \$2-3 million grant potential, although it stipulates significant monies be in-hand. John is replacing wood slats in the benches. David is working on a drawing to illustrate the scope of the improvements and solicit donations from the community. The project drawings and costs will be published in the Advertiser and O'Fallon Weekly.
- Bob suggested an additional way to promote Lebanon's events is to utilize free public service announcement slots on radio and be sure to take advantage of current events listings published in area newspapers.

## New Business

- None

## Around the Table/Open Discussion

- Rebeca is still in process of moving.
- Robert Watkins handed out his business card.
- Ramona is looking to fill 100 tote bags for the Library to distribute for a \$25. donation and is asking for items to put in the bags. The Library will have a table at the Fall Festival. Ramona has also submitted an application for a grant to the Awesome America Foundation for \$1,000 to obtain benches for the Brick Street.
- Mark is representing Lebanon at the Illinois Historical Society Bicentennial this coming weekend.
- Len said the Mermaid House has a new security system and *Newsies* is the Playhouse's September opener.
- Conrad asked that people include their name when they greet him as his eyesight continues to fail.
- Margaret said the Rotary benches in memory of Jayden Allen and Katherine Cook are completed; the Library would like to re-direct the plastic caps that continue to be dropped off there.
- Byron said DQ is welcoming McKendree students with a half off special on Mondays and is available to help organizations with fundraising projects.
- Carol is the contact person for advertising sales at the O'Fallon Weekly.
- George announced the September 1<sup>st</sup> ribbon cutting for the new bike trail, to be held at 11am. Attendees can enjoy treats made by Berkeman's Bakery if they travel the one quarter mile. The 10' wide trailhead path is located at the east end of McAllister Street by the sewage treatment entry and connects with other safe trail that goes continuous to the Indiana State line.

## Meeting Adjourned at 9:25 am.

Next Meeting is September 27th 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>