

April 25, 2019

## Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

### Attendees:

Spoke's/Visitor's Center, Missy Mitchell ( <b>President</b> )	Lebanon Matthew Ministries, Jane Cotts
Robin's Nest Antiques, Robin Schultze ( <b>V President</b> )	Lebanon Rotary, Jeff Thornton
Christ Bros. Asphalt, Carrie Christ ( <b>Treasurer</b> )	Legendary Creations, Janet Schmitt
City of Lebanon, Cheri Wright ( <b>Correspondence</b> )	McKendree University, Michele Erschen
Meridith Funeral Home, Brenda Pehle ( <b>Secretary</b> )	No Jack, It's A Jill Thing, Jill Fritsch
Atomy, Rebeca Gabel	No Jack, It's A Jill Thing, Scott Locker
Dairy Queen, Baron Rana	Rocking R, Randy Reibold
Dairy Queen, Carson Cummins	Tiadaghton House, Holly Lovell
Fezziwig's, Tim Moore	Visitor's Center Volunteer, Bob Lee
Hanger 18, Amanda Dontigney	
Lebanon Historical Society, Mark Godwin	

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am at the Visitor's Center by Missy Mitchell, President. Robin Schultze gave the invocation to start the meeting. Prayer was followed by brief introductions around the room.

### Reports:

#### **Treasurer's Report**

**(Handout)**

- The General Fund balance is a slim \$6,807.48; \$25,035.05 is the Project Funds reserve. Report approved (Rebeca/Brenda).

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

- Minutes approved (Rebeca/Holly).

#### **Visitor's Center/Chamber**

- Facebook was used to post request for volunteers.
- Missy is looking to offer an orientation in early summer.
- There has been a lot of out-of-town traffic lately and compliments on the town. It was recommended that restaurants supply their current menu for volunteers to share with the public when they drop in looking for an eatery.

#### **Merchants**

- May Market is fast approaching. Currently there are 77 committed booths with another possible 8-10 vendors for the May 4<sup>th</sup> event. Volunteers are needed to set up booths from 6-8:30 on Saturday morning; someone to check trash cans periodically through the day (this year there will be a dumpster); two lunch runners, and folks to tear down at the end of the day. Tim suggested promoting the event using the webpage: [www.maymarket.weebly.com](http://www.maymarket.weebly.com).

#### **McKendree University**

- Today is Academic Excellence Day: there will be tours of College Hill Cemetery at 10 and 11:40; the art gallery will be open 4-6pm with jazz performed on the street.
- May 10-11 is Commencement Weekend.
- This summer, the University is host to numerous sports and music camps and more.

## **City**

- Firemen's Picnic weekend Monroe will be closed from Clover to Parkview after 6pm to accommodate paraders.
- Fireworks will not be sold in town because there is no land/area in the City limits that meets the minimum area safety code for legal discharge.
- Part of Roger and McKendree was dug up to sink culverts; this is first step to reduce flooding from rain.
- Brad & Deb's will be auctioned starting at 9am on April 30 at the Court House.
- There is new regulation signage posted at the Cemetery, and the Garden Club recently planted new trees at College Hill.
- Today's rain and all rain days will interfere with progress on Hwy 50.

## **Website**

- No report.

## **Upcoming Events**

- A work day is planned this Saturday to paint and refurbish McAllister Park.
- Doors will open at No Jack, It's A Jill Thing on May 4<sup>th</sup>; ribbon cutting will likely be held at 1pm. The business was born out of a personal crisis and started with bracelets. Jill and Scott opened their first storefront in Highland on April 1<sup>st</sup>. They look forward to their second store opening in Lebanon, just one month after the first opener.
- Newly elected alderpersons will be sworn in at 7pm on May 1<sup>st</sup> at City Hall.

## **Old Business**

- No report from the Beautification Committee, but Carrie said Michele submitted a draft document that will outline qualifications or perimeters for future beautification projects utilizing the Queen of Hearts profits. Carrie will review this and return with a proposal.
- An ad and map were recently committed for a regional A Day Away magazine. The Chamber is also committed to a year long run in the O'Fallon Weekly aimed at highlighting special events in town and paid merchant sponsorships. The advertising will be seen in print and online, and comes with an annual subscription to the O'Fallon Weekly.
- Revision of the Constitution and By-Laws continues to be underway, at this time primarily focused on changes and additions of job descriptions.
- Chamber membership benefits include use of the marquee on the Square; members be sure you are submitting special events and sales information.

## **New Business**

- To augment Chamber funding from Visitor's Center rental income and Chamber membership, it was suggested that the fundraising committee – Becky, Cheri and Michele - brainstorm ideas that might bolster the General Fund.
- It might be too close for planning this year, but there is clearly need for cookout/sandwich stands during the City Wide Yard Sale.
- Missy distributed a draft flyer listing present activities and events around town during the Christmas season, with an invitation to attend a brainstorming meeting on May 8 at 5pm at the Foundry to expand the variety of festivities and attract more visitors to town.

## **Around the Room**

- Future meetings will allow for a 5-minute feature speaker/presenter. There is always opportunity to host an After Hours gathering or breakfast hour for conversation and fun. Today, Rebeca kicked it off talking about Atomy, an affordable line of skin care and other personal care products, priced to compete with Amazon Prime and other big box stores without dues. Baron,

Randy, Scott, Jeff, Brenda, Tim, Amanda and Holly all went to work with an Atomy prize product drawn during the meeting.

- Carrie stated that Greg Kadell is replacing light sensors, and asked for approval to pay agreed upon \$1000. for electric work (Greg has done much of the project as a volunteer). Motion carried (Robin/Cheri). Doug Johansson is nearing completion of powder coated signage. The McCleary's have given permission for City to put a sign on their property (east entry); Carrie welcomes design ideas for this sign. Signage additions to the south Chamber board may be given to Carrie for mounting.
- DQ will hold a blood drive on July 16<sup>th</sup> from 3-7pm. Donors will receive a certificate for a medium Blizzard.
- Tim asked for updates on several pending ventures: the building on 214 W. St. Louis Street is awaiting bank approval; McKendree has sold a section of golf course between College and Belleville Streets to an individual who plan for the land to be a green environment for his family's use. Ron's Tavern has been sold to a restaurateur and the word is the branding will be unchanged.
- Mermaid House will be open May Market day from 10am until the crowds thin.
- Cheri announced that there are 13 banners now on display honoring hometown veteran banners.
- Bob is pursuing a local Moose Club and seeking interest from 25 men and 25 women in town.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 23rd, 2019 at 8:30am in the lower level of the Visitor's Center. Meeting adjourned at 9:34am.

//signed//

Brenda Pehle, Secretary

//signed//

Melissa Mitchell, 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, [rebeca.gabel@gmail.com](mailto:rebeca.gabel@gmail.com), 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: [www.facebook.com/lebanonchamberof commerce](http://www.facebook.com/lebanonchamberofcommerce)