

Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Spokes Market Hub, Missy Mitchell (President)	Lions Club, Mike Bennett
Robin's Nest Antiques, Robin Schultz (Vice President)	McKendree University, Michele Erschen
Christ Bros. Asphalt, Carrie Christ (Treasurer)	No Jack, It's a Jill Thing, Jill Fritsch
Meridith Funeral Home, Brenda Pehle (Secretary)	Rocking R, Randy Reibold
Atomy, Rebeca Gabel	Tiadaghton House, Holly Lovell
Cedars of Lebanon, Antoinette Moore	Visitor's Center, Joe Zimmerlee
Gateway East Trails, George Fero	Visitor's Center Volunteer, Robert Lee
Lebanon Historical Society, Mark Godwin	Weil Services/TL Weil Inspections, Mary Weil
Lebanon Winter Wonderland, Barbara Joy	Guest:50Plus News &Views, Sandra Norris
Legendary Creations, Janet Schmitt	Guest:Metro Storage Express, Michael Romshek

Prior to start of meeting, Missy passed around the room a draft copy for guidelines and application form from which to process requests for Queen of Hearts beautification funds, asking all present to write any suggestion or comment for further inclusion.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am at the Visitor's Center by Missy Mitchell, President. Mike Bennett led invocation.

Attendees introduced themselves. First meeting welcome to Mike Romshek of Metro Storage Express.

Guest Sandra Norris shared May edition of the free monthly magazine publication aimed at the 50+ generation with circulation of 11,000 print and 80,000 overall readership (digital readership gives access to Bloomington and Peoria issues). Personal stories, games & puzzles, and the monthly calendar are of special interest to readers. Attendees noticed Laker's Car Club featured in the magazine. Sandra noted long term plans toward owning the operation, and invited merchants to contact her to meet about advertising costs. The articles are provided by advertisers with ¼ page or more paid ad: 6 month advertising yields 6 articles, about 400 words each article. Writing services and superb graphics staff are available as part of the package. Contact: sandra@50plusnewsandviews.com, 618-407-3297.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report

(Handout)

- Carrie called attention to page 2 of handout: with the earmarked projects and Queen of Hearts balance, the available Chamber funds are floating at \$6844.00, slightly higher than the previous month, with Garden Club paying rent and donation of Women's Club.
- Carrie read her written letter of thanks to the Women's Club, highlighting appreciation for their gift, ongoing need for financial support from the community, and the mutual goal for promoting and serving the town of Lebanon. She said the letter would be hand delivered for the evening meeting.
- Steve Brown will also receive a letter of appreciation and gift certificate for his grounds care service to the Chamber.
- Treasure report approved (Rebeca/Joe).

Secretary's Report

- Minutes approved (Rebeca/George).

Visitor's Center/Chamber

- Joe briefed attendees on past problems in recent years to cool the upstairs of the Center, and the ultimate breakdown this past weekend when the unit stopped putting out cool air altogether. Brefeld pumped it back up; we can hope the unit will run throughout the summer season, but need to look for replacement units and options for the eventual loss and costly maintenance.
- Joe passed print promotion around the room for the Tourism Trade Magazine advertising for Fall Festival (October 5) and Trunk or Treat (October 26).

- Missy is looking for more people to take on Chamber roles, engaging present and new members in organizations planning and events, and bring with them fresh ideas and energy, with the goal to relieve folks from wearing too many hats and promote Lebanon's very best.

Merchants

- Holly reported that May Market enjoyed great success despite bad weather at the start of the day. About 10 vendors dropped because of the predicted rain, but shops and vendors were happy with sales.

McKendree University

- McKendree is hosting First Year Introduction (FYI) days on June 10 and 24, and July 12.
- Summer camp offering can be accessed at mckcamp.com. In addition to sports camps, there are opportunities for choir camp, band camp and drum camp.

City

- George said there are a number of initiatives on the Council table.

Website

- Rebeca is going to use her summer break from studies to refresh the website with the recent WordPress update. She intends to upload the Chamber directory as a PDF to create a printable list/resource.
- Contact Rebeca if you are not currently receiving the Chamber newsletter/agenda/minutes.

Upcoming Events

Changes and additional days to add to the calendar:

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| June 7 | First Friday Food & Facials , 11am-2pm, Visitor's Center lower level. Complimentary facial demonstrations and spring rolls. Contact Missy and Rebeca. |
| June 11 | Lebanon Women's Club DQ Fundraiser |
| June 22 | (Change from June 8) Home-based Small Business Fair . Participants will pay \$25 per booth and enjoy Chamber membership through the calendar year. (Mike B/Joe) Chamber approved prorated member rate. Contact Rebeca for more info. |
| June 24-28 | VBS , 9am-noon, hosted by St. Joseph Catholic Church. |
| July 16 | Give a Pint, Get a Pint Blood Drive at DQ . Mike B happily noted that the Lions surpassed their April goal of 13 pints of blood. |
| July 25-26 | AARP Safe Driver Course , 1-5pm both days. Sponsored by Library, facilitated by George Fero in the Visitor's Center basement. Cost \$15 for AARP members, \$20 for non-members. |

Old Business

Beautification –

--In support of the McAllister Park improvements, Carrie will do homework to apply for Chamber's Queen of Hearts funds to purchase trash receptacles for the park. George made mention that proposals need to go through the Hoerner Park District to maximize improvements and tap matching funds. [The McAllister Park Project has two grants. One from St Clair County and one from MEPRD. The St Clair County Grant allows in-kind match for the parks portion of the project. MEPRD only allows funds to be used for the match. The cash match for MEPRD is about \$16,000. Thus, whenever funds are donated for the project, they must flow through the Horner Park District funds. For example, if a trash can is donated, then it becomes in-kind. If funds are donated to purchase a trash can, they are part of the cash match.]

--Since the exterior wall of City Hall was cleaned of the deteriorated paint mural and freshened, volunteers have proposed that the bare surface be painted to reflect Lebanon's founding date with period style lettering. Carrie estimates this will cost \$800 - \$1500 and will approach City Council with the request; (Carrie/Randy) Motion to present to City approved.

--City Wide Yard Sale – coming up June 1. Robin said visitors came through recently and asked why Lebanon was not participating in the Hwy 50 coast to coast yard sale. It was

suggested this idea get passed along to the Women's Club for consideration next year. Missy also suggested selling food next year as a Chamber fund raiser.

New Business

Former Brad and Debs lot was purchased at auction by the City recently. Mayor Wilken asked Chamber for ideas for land, which the city will officially own July 23. It is being bid for versatile flat use space; perhaps the Chamber will consider landscaping around the perimeter.

Around the Room

- George said that 400 riders participated in the Stooges Tournament and they raised enough to resurface the sunken section of bike path with concrete so as not to miss out on further opportunities, like the Strawberry Festival, bringing riding clubs through town during the summer season.
- Mike B reported the Elvis show raised \$2300.00 for Lion's kids camps, including a \$500 donation from the Lebanon Winter Wonderland. He said there is a 7th grader in town who is a candidate for highly specialized glasses that will give him sight. The price tag was \$10K the first time the Lion's endeavored to raise money for this specialized eyewear; at present, the price tag to give this child the gift of sight is \$6K.
- Bob made mention of 6 visitors to the Center who expressed disappointment that shops were closed on a Tuesday. Volunteers at the Visitor's Center will be coached to respond to these kinds of comments.
- Randy has scheduled and is personally funding karaoke entertainment from 6-7pm during the July 6 Laker's Car Club Show with hope that it adds to the festivities and enjoyment of public.
- Jill suggested that as a new merchant, she would benefit from knowing more about operating a business in town and posed the idea for the Chamber to develop a welcome packet for new merchants. It could include, for one, information about Chamber Gift Certificates (Bucks), which is not familiar to all small business owners. Jill said she would spearhead this program.
- Guest Mike Romshek said he recently acquired and will be opening Metro Storage Express next to the DQ. It will feature updates like insurance and security cameras. As a new owner, he sees his presence bringing continuity to services for short and long-term use. U-Haul has contacted him about offering their services.

Meeting adjourned at 9:31am. Next Chamber meeting date is June 27.

//signed//

Brenda Pehle, Secretary

//signed//

Melissa Mitchell, President

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, 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/lebanonchamberofcommerce