

## Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

### Attendees:

Visitors' Center, Missy Mitchell ( <b>President</b> )	Gateway East Trails, George Fero
Robin's Nest Antiques, Robin Schultze ( <b>V President</b> )	Hangar 18/Merchants, Amanda Dontigney
Christ Bros. Asphalt, Carrie Christ ( <b>Treasurer</b> )	John Wright Realty, John Wright
Meridith Funeral Home, Brenda Pehle ( <b>Secretary</b> )	Keller Williams, Barry Schulhofer
Cobblestone, Travis Lewis	Lebanon Rotary, Jeff Thornton
Cobblestone, Joe Morgan	Legendary Creations, Janet Schmitt
Dairy Queen, Baron Rana	LGPlayhouse/Mermaid Inn, Len Adams
Emerald Mound Grange, Mindy Schiefer	Rocking R, Linda Reibold
Farmers & Merchants, Michaela Johnson	Sure Shot, Tony Barrale
Farmers & Merchants, Nathan Parchman	Tiadaghton House, Holly Lovell
Fit 4 All, David Tate	Visitors' Center, Joe Zimmerlee
Fit 4 All, Lawrence Tate	Visitors' Center Volunteer, Bob Lee

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am at the Visitors' Center by Missy Mitchell, President. Joe Zimmerlee offered prayer to begin the meeting.

Missy extended thanks to Barry Schulhofer for providing donuts for the Chamber gathering.

Brief introductions were made. Dave Tate, owner of Fit 4 All, shared current happenings. The new building is designated space for special needs classes offered 4-5 times a week, led by Katie, a special needs teacher from Troy. A Special Olympics Cheer is on the horizon, and Katie has scheduled a Sensory Santa for children with autism and other sensory issues. When the 900 sq ft space is not utilized for classes, it is available for private events such as birthday parties, showers, graduations, etc. Parking expansion is presently in limbo because of a permit discrepancy, hopefully resolved by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Fit 4 All has Silver Sneakers status, which insurance companies don't highlight enough, and Dave does not charge enrollment fees with membership. Halloween and Christmas decorations will be big, to complement holiday Merchant events.

Carrie added that the Chamber provides 2 weeks free advertisement to new members on the electronic board and Tami Wilken is the contact person.

### Reports:

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

- July Minutes were approved (Bob/Rebeca).

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

**(Handout)**

- Carrie got \$134.00 refunded for the Dishonesty policy that is no longer needed, and was able to obtain the McAllister Park trash canisters for less than projected.
- Balances: Beautification \$19,663.05; Entrance Signs \$1,590.54; Square \$439.16; Stop Signs \$148.35; O'Fallon Weekly \$90.00: Total \$21,931.10. Report approved (\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_).

#### **Visitors' Center**

- Visitors' Center volunteers were treated to brunch August 13<sup>th</sup> and had the chance to learn more about the shops and community. Among the attendees were five prospective new volunteers; three signed up, and the remaining couple, relatively new to Lebanon, are thinking about volunteering.

#### **Merchants**

- Witches Night Out has over 6000 Facebook likes and followers. This year there will be Witches Yoga, Witches (roller skate) Derby, and a Sanderson Sisters prize category. Vintage camper will be back for photos; admission for Haunted Trail in the mini garden will go to Chapter 1; Sure Shot will hold an activity and Women's Club will have a fundraiser. Planners look to add a band, and have 10-15 vendors and food stands that don't take away from merchants and restaurants.
- The next day, Christmas planning will be in high gear, kicking off with Victorian Holiday Weekend.

## **McKendree University**

- Into-the-Streets is this weekend; new students will be engaged in service projects all over town. Students are required to log 500 service hours during their years of study. Volunteer seekers contact Josh Hughlett: [jahughlett@mckendree.edu/618-537-6901](mailto:jahughlett@mckendree.edu/618-537-6901).
- Missy is accepting flyers, promotional literature, etc. for the Organizational Fair on August 30th.

## **City**

- Cheers! The City has a new parking lot which will provide parking for 28 cars. Landscaping will be done by Homescape. The Council is drafting an ordinance that will prohibit overnight parking.
- City Council is also in the process of developing an annual registration permit for mobile food vendors; these permits are common in surrounding communities.

## **Website**

- With WordPress upgrade, Rebeca will be updating Chamber membership and wants to add still more value of Chamber membership with a webpage "slide show" of current events. Noted: events are promoted still further when individuals and merchants repost the upcoming attractions. Send flyers/promotional pieces to Rebeca.
- October is open for scheduling a Business After Hours date.

## **Upcoming Events (Additions)**

- September 28: Alzheimer's fundraiser with hot dogs, burgers and dessert/baked goods will be set up at True Value from 9am-2pm. Contact Nicole Hohrein to donate baked and other items.
- December 7: Sensory Santa for children at Fit 4 All, Noon-4pm (may extend to 6pm).

## **Old Business**

- Get Out – Paint Out September 13<sup>th</sup>
- Victorian Holiday Weekend planning committee remains open to add events and activities. The sponsorship letter that was mailed last month is accepting donations from \$50 to \$750.

## **New Business**

- The slate of 2020 Chamber Officers is to be presented at the September meeting; those interested in running or holding a particular post should contact Rebeca. Missy can provide duties/responsibilities. Chamber president has a two-year term limit; other posts are open ended.
- Chamber Board members are working on budget and welcome feedback or ideas for next year.
- Chamber membership drive is also around the corner. It offers big bang for the buck from January 1 – December 31; new businesses joining after January 1 are prorated. In addition to renewal, we can encourage non-members to join.

## **Around the Room**

- Robin thanked everyone for support celebrating her 2<sup>nd</sup> year in business.
- Joe pointed out that there is great value for a Chamber monthly membership cost of \$8.67. Among benefits is advertising in the Tourism Times; December's issue will be out soon, promoting Victorian Holiday Weekend.
- Carrie is taking donations to cover the cost of striping the new parking lot (est. \$350.) A proposal for fencing around the lot will be presented to Beautification Committee.
- Janet mentioned the retirement sale going on at Legendary.
- Nathan and Michaela said they were glad to attend the meeting and look forward to being present at future meetings.
- John reported that the new bakery is fulfilling all the inspections needed to open. Baker, Laura, has operated bakeries in Texas and Oregon before moving to Lebanon.
- John also shared that we should be proud and pleased to have a hand in transforming the blighted site that was Brad & Deb's to be a functional and beautiful space that will enhance shopping in Lebanon and the community.
- George repeated that Bike Trail road repairs are set for next month and will be done entirely by volunteers. They are doing a fundraiser at DQ on Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, from 5-8pm to help pay for materials.

- He added that the Library becomes its own district on September 5th.
- Businesses wanting yellow box promotion in The Advertiser can submit information to George or Marie.
- Mindy is creating a list of non-profits for the upcoming Fair; help her so no one is left off.
- Jeff said because of a grant, the Rotary is proud that it was able to update the Food Pantry freezer, and said projects like the upcoming Harrison Church yard sale September 6-7<sup>th</sup> enable them to give to Lebanon organizations and programs.
- Dave said to keep their new space in mind for private events, and let him know if interested in going in together to replace the bankruptcy billboard as soon as it becomes available.
- Bob is pushing for Lebanon to have a Chick-fil-A; he urges merchants to send their upcoming events to WGEL radio.
- Len said LGP brochures are available and added thanks for new advertisers. He also announced an Eagle Project to replace the wooden walkway at the Playhouse. At Mermaid House, floors are being shored up, and the regular meeting time is changed to 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, 6-8pm. Because they are inheriting The Advertiser building, there is serious talk of giving up trolley refurbishment.
- Sure Shot has an elevated platform for archery now, and enjoyed big success with a recent youth event, which they will do again.
- Homescape Services will be donating materials for parking lot landscaping.
- Barry said it was good to attend the meeting.
- Holly said Tiadaghton House will have free food and demonstrations when they celebrate their 6th year on September 21st.
- Rebeca said she continues to host Atomy facials and Korean food sampling on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month at the Visitors' Center
- Missy reminded folks of the McAllister Park photo with new trash canisters this coming Saturday at 11:30am, and ribbon cutting on September 14<sup>th</sup>. She is also making table space available during Chamber meetings for merchant flyers.
- Winter Wonderland is donating a 12 x 20 gazebo to Hoerner Park from Christmas light profits, to be situated near the lake, and nice for weddings and photo shoots.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 26th, 2019 at 8:30am in the lower level of the Visitors' Center.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45am.

//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/lebanonchamberofcommerce](http://www.facebook.com/lebanonchamberofcommerce)