

Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Spokes Market Hub, Missy Mitchell (President)	Lebanon Winter Wonderland, Barbara Joy
Christ Bros. Asphalt, Carrie Christ (Treasurer)	Legendary Creations, Janet Schmitt
City of Lebanon, Cheri Wright (Correspondence)	Lions Club, Mike Bennett
Meridith Funeral Home, Brenda Pehle (Secretary)	Pearson Printing/Whimsey, Margaret Pearson
Atomy, Rebeca Gabel	Rocking R, Randy Reibold
Gateway East Trails, George Fero	State Farm Insurance, Jessica Zurliene
Lebanon Historical Society/LGP/Mermaid, Len Adams	Visitor's Center, Joe Zimmerlee
Lebanon Historical Society, Mark Godwin	Visitor's Center Volunteer, Robert Lee

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 following the Treasurer's Report.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report

(Handout)

- Interest on Money Market is currently 1%.
- Insurance bill of \$2,526.00 was paid 3/18.
- Balance of Queen of Hearts Fund is \$21,657.00 after transfer of \$3000.00 for street light repair.
- Chamber Board to meet to establish criteria for additional beautification spending of Queen Funds.
- Carrie is working on location of signage on east end of town.
- Greg Kadell has favorable weather now to resume work on lights. While Greg is donating his time, Chamber will have to pay electrician an estimated \$1000.00 for his work.
- Additionally, details of car show have been worked out and construction on Hwy 50 is pending fair weather.
- Approved (Brenda/Cheri).

Secretary's Report

- Minutes approved (Rebeca/Len).

Visitor's Center/Chamber

- Light bulb in stairwell requires skillful change.
- Volunteers are always needed to fill spots during hours; please consider the people in your sphere of influence and encourage them to volunteer.
- Membership renewal presently stands at 56, shy of the 60 minimum needed.
- Clarification from last month's report of \$3,500.00 advertising expenditure; actual promotional spending was \$7,300.00 when Victorian Holiday, May Market and all events are factored in.

Merchants

- Dickens Day flyer is in store front; Randy will talk to Tim about placing it in O'Fallon Weekly.
- Holly has 44 reservations for May Market and hopes to meet last year's mark of 71 vendors. Let Holly know of merchant specials for broadcasting. Since Mama Mia and May Market share the day, it's advantageous to pursue ambassadors from McKendree to aid traffic movement and transition from Market close to Curtain Call.

McKendree University

- McKendree is hosting a 5-10K run on April 13th.
- May 10-11 is Commencement weekend.

City

- Council approved striping of curb on W. St. Louis Street.
- Chief of Police has authorized shops to call them to enforce street parking.
- Council voted to hire full time safety director to be responsible for building permits, code enforcement and court attendance. Job description and opening are forthcoming. Salary has been approved at \$70,000.00 plus benefits.
- Melinda Wright has purchased the building on the north side of W. St. Louis/Pearl to be a future restaurant and gift shop.
- Summerfield Lions will begin Queen of Hearts in early May; drawing to be 7pm on Thursdays.

Website

- There is a technical difficulty with the membership director that may necessitate it be taken down and put up new again.

Upcoming Events

Additional days to add to the calendar:

April 6	Savers Fundraiser MS Trivia Night at St. Joseph; doors open at 6:15pm
April 7	St. Paul UCC Chicken Dinner
April 11	Lions Club is hosting Blood Drive at St. Paul UCC from 3-6:30pm
April 19	Fireman's Fish Fry
April 25	Lions Club will hold Annual Spaghetti Dinner at St. Paul 4:30-7pm
May 11	7pm Elvis Fundraiser raises funds for Lions Club children's camp.
August 8	Back to School Fair 4-6pm at School; Texas Roadhouse will help with drive.

Old Business

Beautification: refer to Carrie's last note in Treasure's Report.

New Business

Representatives met to start to tackle Constitution updates and changes for future review and approval. Missy raised question regarding need for legalize for verbiage, i.e. hold harmless, exclusivity; George offered that language is standard and consultation with an attorney is unnecessary. Rebeca suggested clean hard copy of Constitution can be scanned to create an Adobe file/electronic version.

Constitution by-laws - Cheri

Rebeca handed out print promotional from Du Quoin newspaper showing Chamber ads surrounding Chamber news. Rebeca obtained quote from O'Fallon Weekly to do something similar, giving Chamber members 12 once/month advertising for cost of \$180.00 per year. Rebeca will put information in form of proposal for future Chamber discussion/vote.

Robert volunteered to work with promotions. Advertising will continue to be considered so Chamber merchants can reach the greatest number of people and yield best return for the dollar.

Around the Room

- Len announced that the LGP playbill booklet is open for advertisers, which includes electronic board and website promotion as well. Next season's schedule is almost set; Matilda will be opening show. He is presently working with Women's Club and their upcoming Gaslight jazz show on April 13. Players are rehearsing Mama Mia, and Trivia Night is at Althoff High School this Saturday. Tables are still available at \$12.00 per person. Historical Society now offers a virtual tour of the Mermaid House at mymatterport.com. Len is mentoring students for Dicken's Day. Cheri indicated new owner of building next door wants to talk with grounds keeper; Missy will make this known to Garden Club.
- Janet is selling Legendary building. She has Gaslight tickets for sale.
- George is handling the Stooges Tour, offering 14 to 100 miles of cycling on May 4.
- Mike reiterated opportunity to play Trivia to benefit MS, encouraged blood donation and attendance at Elvis show for Lion's Camp.
- Margaret said Conrad will welcome visitors.
- In addition to Back to School, Jessica said reduced insurance prices have been well received.
- Bob has advertising ideas to share; he also hopes people will step up to offer non-driving citizens a ride to the polls on April 2.
- Cheri reported daily digs on the grounds of the hopeful grocery store, but there is no official word on groundbreaking to date. Talk is the store will open in November.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28. Next meeting date is April 25.

//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