

## Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

### Attendees:

Robin's Nest, Robin Schultze ( <b>Vice-President</b> )	Legendary Creations, Janet Schmitt
Christ Bros. Asphalt, Carrie Christ ( <b>Treasurer</b> )	McKendree University, Michele Erschen
Meridith Funeral Home, Brenda Pehle ( <b>Secretary</b> )	Rocking R, Linda Reibold
City Board, Cheri Wright ( <b>Correspondence</b> )	Sure Shot, Tony Barrale
Atomy, Chamber Website, Rebeca Gabel	Visitors' Center, Joe Zimmerlee
Dairy Queen, Baron Rana	Weil Services/TL Prop Insp., Mary Weil
Dairy Queen, Carson Cummins	Visitors' Center Volunteer, Bob Lee
Farmers & Merchants, Michaela Johnson	Guest: Mayor Rich Wilken
Farmers & Merchants, Steve Parrish	Guest: Dr. Ronda Sauget
Fit 4 All, David Tate	Visitor: Jerry Cornell
Hangar 18/Merchants, Amanda Dontigney	

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am at the Visitors' Center by Robin Schultze, Vice-President, in the absence of Missy Mitchell. Joe Zimmerlee led invocation.

After brief introductions, Dr. Ronda Sauget presented slides (and handout) and spoke on Southwestern Illinois Transportation Center's work, touching on the Rieder Road expansion, recent hold on a new gate at SAFB, and industrial park development in O'Fallon. CEO of the Leadership Council, Dr. Sauget gave indicators for increased employment and business opportunities in the area.

### Reports:

**Secretary's Report** - tabled until next meeting.

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

**(Handout)**

- Account balance of \$3,593.88, with note of \$2,400.00 expenditure for parking lot fence, approved (Bob/Rebeca).

#### **Visitors' Center**

- Visitors' Center is well staffed for Witches Night and Trunk or Treat; the Center can always use more volunteers.
- The heat is on and new filters were installed.
- There was a recent incident in which items were stolen from a volunteer's purse. Subsequent conversation/ideas include provision of a small safe, necessity for a camera system, or panic button which immediately alerts the police.
- Victorian Holidays handouts were distributed.

#### **Merchants**

- Witches Night Out runs 4-9pm, with set up and witch yoga at 4pm; by all social media indicators, it will be largest crowd ever.
- Christmas event planning continues.

#### **McKendree University**

- The Hett added an additional show on November 6.
- The University will host prospective transfer students and families on November 9.

- Four events are planned for Dr. Dennis' send-off, including a \$26 sock campaign to laude 26 years as President and his extensive sock collection; income to support the General Fund.

### **City**

- Rain forecast for Trunk or Treat prompted FD to cancel plans to handout hot dogs. Streets will be closed 4-9pm; treat hours are 6-8pm.

**Website** – no report.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Rebeca added Atomy event November 1, and handed out 2020 Calendar of Events for preview.
- Reminder: November meeting will be third Thursday, and there is no meeting in December.

### **Old Business**

- Rebeca conducted election by ballot; Officers for 2020 are President: Missy Mitchell, Vice-President: Robin Schultze, Secretary: Brenda Pehle, Treasurer: Carrie Christ. Board Member Election Results: 2020-2022: Baron Rana and David Tate; 2019-2021: Cheri Wright and Janet Schmitt; and 2018-2020: John Wright and Barb Joy.
- Membership Drive will kick off with breakfast hosted at Cobblestone on Tuesday, December 3, 8:30am. Please RSVP by November 29: call/text Missy 977-9713 AND bring a prospective Chamber member!
- The trolley sign is now installed at the north entrance to Lebanon. East entrance signage is next, with the goal of it being finished by May 2020 because west entrance will reflect presence of McKendree University.
- Revisions of the Constitution and By-Laws continues to progress. The Board deems it best to submit all changes for consideration at one time, and is hopeful to bring to vote in January 2020.

### **New Business**

- New Tourism ad was passed around room.
- O'Fallon Weekly's ad page has been a boon with increased sales/foot traffic attributed to monthly spotlight.
- Bob Lee is going to visit local radio stations to see what inroads can be made for public service spots.

### **Around the Room**

- Mayor Wilken said he is glad for Dr. Sauget's help leading him to make important contacts and advocate for Lebanon in the Southwest Business Journal.
- Rebeca extended invitation to First Friday Facials & Food from 11am-1pm.
- Janet said a resale shop will go into Legendary building with a 12-month lease/option to buy. [Recent closures are all due to retirements and empty storefronts hold potential for new businesses. Retail/service commerce is ever changing and have to be relevant, so there will always be movement of business in and out of the community.]
- Joe spoke with someone regarding the possibility of a new shop.
- Michaela offered Farmers & Merchants as a resource for business advancement and is sponsoring the February workshop.
- Mary has a VRBO for rent; it is popular with families of McKendree students.
- Jerry reported damage to lighting caused by a truck in amount of \$900.00. Being public property, it was suggested this be addressed with City; as it is under \$1000.00, replacement can come from utility tax funds.
- Dave is wondering about status of Cedar's Restaurant Building and is thrilled with building improvements across the street at the laundromat.

- Barb said lights are continuing to go up on Saturdays; start time 10am. With rain in forecast, call Janet about this Saturday. Contact Dona Schieppe to volunteer display nights.
- Tony said to come out and throw axes with the corn down.
- Amanda is always taking guitars for repair.
- Linda's not sure when Randy returns; currently there is one bay in carwash needing repair.
- Janet has all merchandise at 75% off when you can catch her.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2019 at 8:30am in the lower level of the Visitors' Center.

Meeting adjourned at 9:31am.

//signed//

Brenda Pehle, Secretary

//signed//

Robin Schultze, Vice-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. 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/>
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