

Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Atomy/Victorian, Missy Mitchell (President)	Lebanon Lions Club, Mike Bennett
Robin's Nest, Robin Schultze (Vice-President)	Lebanon Rotary Club, Jeff Thornton
Christ Bros. Asphalt, Carrie Christ (Treasurer)	Legendary Creations, Janet Schmitt
Meridith Funeral Home, Brenda Pehle (Secretary)	LGP/Historical/Mermaid, Len Adams
APEX, Stacy Schreiber	McKendree University, Michele Erschen
Atomy, Rebeca Gabel	Rocking R, Linda Reibold
Cedars of Lebanon Apts., Tina Schrader	Tiadaghton House, Holly Lovell
Dairy Queen, Baron Rana	Visitors' Center, Joe Zimmerlee
Farmers & Merchants, Michaela Johnson	Winter Wonderland, Barb Joy
Farmers & Merchants, Nathan Parchmen	Wright Realty, John Wright
Fit 4 All, David Tate	Visitors' Center Volunteer, Bob Lee
Gateway Trails, George Fero	
Lebanon Historical Society, Mark Godwin	

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am at the Visitors' Center by Missy Mitchell, President. Joe Zimmerlee led invocation, which was followed by introductions and thanks to Farmers & Merchants for providing donuts.

Missy gave a shout out to Jack Gibson, a student at O'Fallon Township High School, for the improvements to the LGP courtyard seating, done to fulfill requirements for Eagle Scout merit. She also gave kudos to the hardworking committees and help of all who made Witches Night Out and the upcoming Victorian Holiday Weekend so successful.

Reports:

Secretary's Report

- September and October's minutes were approved (Mike/Michele).

Treasurer's Report

(Handout)

- \$2312.48 is the General Fund; approved (Bob/Barb) with detail in handout. Carrie reported they are working on a budget to include an advertising line item based on anticipated funds from membership. She also requested that advertising with the O'Fallon Weekly be left on the books for the participating businesses to offer ideas for how money should be spent. Carrie would like \$148.35 left from stop sign project be returned to GF to close project line. In preparation for future signage, the entrance at the shortcut is being staked; trolley signage is planned at the north side of town, and a flag is being manufactured for the east entry.

Visitors' Center

- Visitors' Center decorating continues this afternoon and evening in preparation for Victorian Holiday Weekend. Donations of pies are being taken at the Visitors' Center.
- The annual dinner for volunteers will be held at Grit and Tonic on December 11 from 6-8pm.

Merchants

- Considering events have been non-stop the last month, the Merchants are steeped in Victorian Holiday planning and not thinking beyond the coming weekend.

McKendree University

- Thanksgiving break begins November 27.
- Outskirts of Inspiration exhibit opens today through December 8.
- Giving Tuesday will benefit the General Fund, as will the sock fundraiser in Dr. Dennis' name.
- The Nutcracker is showing at the Hett, December 13-14.
- After Finals, students will be off until January 13, which coincides with Dr. Dennis' retirement.

City

- George reported that the neighbor who was burned out of his apartment has been appreciative of the community's outpouring support and help. Joe added that Paul Jansen has relocated to O'Fallon but is still using Lebanon phone number.
- There is a committee working on cannabis ordinance effective January 1, 2020 observing 1500' distance from school and other specifics to churches, senior centers, group homes, etc. It is anticipated that with TIF, any dispensary would be north or south on Route 4, for funding of infrastructure such as sidewalks and streets. It is possible for the City to see significant additional income from sale of cannabis.

Website

- Updates are closer to where they need to be, and website includes Victorian Holiday schedule.
- Special shout out to John and Bonnie Wright for use of two storefront spaces for activities with Father Christmas and a warming station for performers during Victorian Holiday Weekend.
- Calendar is open to accepting hosts for Business at Breakfast/Lunch/After Hours.

Old Business

- Cobblestone will host breakfast December 3 at 8:30 am for Chamber's Membership Drive kickoff. Sign up in advance and bring a prospective new member.
- Various updates are needed in and around the Visitors' Center, including the replacement of the sandwich sign and flag pole mounts donated by Bill and Betty Ford (with a suggestion that they be moved to the Square since they can't fly where they are), and the upstairs door. Greg fixed the GFI outlet outside the building.
- The revised Constitution and By-Laws will be sent to the membership via email to read in advance of the call to vote at the January meeting.

New Business

- 2020 Membership Forms will be distributed in person/by mail in the weeks ahead. Motion that dues remain the same as previous year (Bob/Mike), however, Dave suggested we not shy from doubling amounts, and make steps toward building confidence in the value of Chamber membership so the Chamber struggles less. Nathan offered that O'Fallon has a Star Level that gives businesses voluntary choice of increasing their contribution. Additionally, Silver/Gold Star Levels could have added benefits. Motion to implement \$300 Star Membership, change membership of 16 or more to 16-30 employees for \$150, and over 31 employees to \$200. Revised motion (Bob/Mike) approved.
- Rebeca requested major events, including call for street closures, so she can present a complete 2020 calendar in January.
- Farmers & Merchants and SIU-E will present upcoming business workshop. Suggestions include information on start-up, how to put merchandise on line, tax preparation, handbook particular to Lebanon community, non-profits, and business systems, i.e. QuickBooks. One idea is to offer workshops periodically rather than one time only.
- There is interest in looking into and learning more about available member software product.

Around the Room

- Michaela and Nathan shared pride in Farmers & Merchants Nashville TN start in 1906 as a community bank that works hard to get to know the people who live and work in town. Their seminars include elder abuse, estate planning and trusts, with groups as small as 5-10.
- Registration for Tour de Stooges starts in January; Friends of McAllister Park organization is applying for IRS 501(c)3 nonprofit exempt status.
- Jeff said Rotary is serving chicken and dumplings at Methodist Church from 2-6pm on Saturday. Proceeds will go toward Lebanon projects.
- Baron made mention of the annual firetruck and toy collection for children hospitalized locally over Christmas: bring an unwrapped toy and get a free Blizzard. Also, DQ will have half off cakes and novelties on Black Friday.
- John stated a contract has been signed on vacated Luckenbooth storefront to open in January.
- Mike identified collection bins for old Christmas tree lights and announced Blood Drives scheduled January 6 and April 23, plus Thanksgiving dinner served family style from 2-4pm at FUMC. Also, Lions will have a warming station at the east end of the street during Victorian Holidays Weekend.
- Barb promised this year's 11th annual Winter Wonderland will be the biggest and best ever with addition of a big Santa and military lights and flag. The hut will be heated for volunteers, who can sign up with Dona at 792-2014/dschieppe42@gmail.com.
- David said that all children are welcome to visit their sensory Santa on December 7 between noon-4pm.
- Bob is moving to Granite City next year. He urges merchants to go together to buy radio time to promote shop Lebanon. In addition, he's been courting Kentucky Fried Chicken to come to town.
- Len has ghost books; LGP is doing auditions for a Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder, and preparing for A Christmas Carol. Mermaid House will be open from 5-9 for the weekend, and now meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Lastly, with Harrison Church's death, status of The Advertising building is uncertain since change of ownership was not finalized.
- Mark shared cost to restore trolley totals .5 million, and with that figure, he is working on plan B.
- Rebeca has been contacted by Donna Wood at school to identify local establishments that have ability to host students who do not have home internet to use WIFI service on site after school.
- Robin asked building owners to notify tenants and businesses to park behind their respective buildings.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2020 at 8:30am in the lower level of the Visitors' Center. Meeting adjourned at 9:50am.

//signed//
Brenda Pehle, Secretary

//signed//
Missy Mitchell, President

Note: Chamber news and minutes are distributed via Constant Contact. Please add chamber@lebanonil.us to your contacts to ensure delivery. 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