

February 27, 2020

Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Robin's Nest, Robin Schultze (Vice-President)	Individual, Janet Schmitt
Christ Bros. Asphalt, Carrie Christ (Treasurer)	Individual, John Wright
Meridith Funeral Home, Brenda Pehle (Secretary)	Lebanon Advertiser, Maria Fero
Atomy, Rebeca Gabel	Lebanon City/Alderperson, Cheri Wright
Cedars of Lebanon Apts., Lori Thrutchley	LGP/Historical/Mermaid, Len Adams
Cedar Ridge, Ashley Huels	McKendree University, Michele Erschen
Dairy Queen, Baron Rana	Rocking R, Linda Reibold
Farmers & Merchants, Michaela Johnson	State Farm Insurance, Jessica Zurliene
First Federal Savings, Tiffany Suydam	Tiadaghton House, Holly Lovell
Fit 4 All, David Tate	Visitors' Center, Joe Zimmerlee
Forward Motion International, Belinda McAllister	Weil Services, Mary Weil
Gateway Trails, George Fero	Winter Wonderland, Barb Joy
	Guest: Bob Lee
	Guest: Denon _____, Ask Miss J/Train Your Brain
	Guest: Amanda Dontigney, Hanger 18/Merchants

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am at the Visitors' Center by Robin Schultze, Vice President. Joe Zimmerlee led invocation; introductions followed.

Reports:

Secretary's Report

- Minutes from January meetings were approved (Rebeca/John).

Treasurer's Report

(Handout)

- Handout of General Fund Account includes \$4,807.38 project money. \$2,885.00 has been added to the budget for highway signs and ChamberMaster costs. Carrie reviewed budget sheet with three year actual and 2020 forecasted costs. There have been offers from Paul Krumseig/Dr. Jazz and Horner Park Board to brainstorm joint fundraisers. Budget suggestions and comments may be directed to Carrie. Report approved (Brenda/Ashley).

Visitors' Center

- We can always use volunteers.
- Insurance for the Visitors' Center this year is \$2570.00 (Wilken/Rockford Ins).
- Joe has new print materials; Chamber members can take some of these brochures for their individual locations.
- Garden Club is planning a garden tour this summer on June 6.
- Currently there are 64 renewed/new Chamber members, and 27 we need to follow-up for renewal. Several businesses are needed to test sign up electronically on ChamberMaster.
- The window washer has upped price to \$10.00 (\$2.00 increase).
- Efforts such as the puzzle table are intended to create a "hometown" feel for residents and visitors alike.
- Al Gerdes has passed along CDs featuring town events; Amanda will take them with her for compilation, eventually for viewing at the Visitors' Center.

City

- The City is lowering inspection fees to be comparable to fees of neighboring towns.

- All street closure requests were approved.
- Mayor Wilken is meeting with IDOT to continue to reduce flooding incidents with deep bridge work over the wetland area.

McKendree University

- Stop in for art exhibit on March 5.

Merchants

- May Market booth reservations are still coming in, and musicians are contracted.
- Discussions about a local Farmers' Market are preliminary with the idea to start with a Wednesday evening for 3-4 months to measure interest and success.

Website

- ChamberMaster software will be ready to roll out soon with a dynamic Chamber member directory that will enable businesses to use photos, YouTube, logos and links, and ability for members to directly load events to the calendar and track visits. In the coming months, we might have lunch and learn gatherings to upload photos for video. Star members will appear on the main page, and should submit graphics to Rebeca. Chamber membership will follow an anniversary year schedule; we will need to revisit revision to the Chamber Constitution & By Laws.

Events

Cedar Ridge – Easter Egg Hunt and breakfast on April 4.

The Lantern is accepting constructive criticism on the menu; it's ample dining area makes it a good spot to hold Business over Breakfast.

Old Business

- Items for the Agenda should be submitted to Missy by the 2nd Thursday of each month.
- Town lighting must be addressed: putting them up and taking them down puts constraint on and is a safety hazard for City workers. Some of the strands need to be replaced. Investment in a permanent, professional installation of LED lights is estimated at \$20 per linear foot. Before shooting it down for the high price tag, we should consider and discuss its merits.
- Monday's City meeting will take up ordinances regarding lighting in the historic district. It was advised to give consideration to meaning and relevance of "historic district" to town and not handicap business prospects and undermine viability of all our shops.
- Noted Schiappa's building is for sale, and Extreme Power Tool closed January 1. True Value building is also for sale, with a lease back agreement. Grocery store is coming along with advertised hiring and opening planned for April 15. See signage for current business opportunities in town.

Around the Room

- RecPlex Garden Show is March 27-29
- Belinda reported disappointing attendance of two for income growth workshop; she will offer it again. Recreational marijuana presentation is March 10.
- Farmers & Merchants is offering free checking and enhanced money management feature.
- Marie pointed out City Wide Yard Sale and Garden Tour are scheduled for the same day.
- Stooges interest has doubled registration. George is facilitating Safe Driver Program, 1-5pm, on May 19 & 20. Cost for two-day program is \$15 for AARP members, \$20 for non-members.
- David is working out details for 5K and willing to donate proceeds for lighting improvements. He is working on a weekend day in October with start at gym, run to park and end in town.
- Since fire, Jessica is getting calls about adequate coverage for a fire or other disaster, and is planning a training for business insurance – building, falls, liability, etc.

- Train Your Brain is offering cope with stress relief workshops on Monday evening, 7pm. Thursday evening sessions are devoted to Training Your Brain. Cost is \$10 per session.
- LGP features “It’s Only a Play” next up on the schedule. Trivia Night is April 18 at Althoff HS. Len recently taught Victorian History for over 100 people at Mermaid House. Working on resolution for trolley has re-energized folks.
- Baron announced March 19 is Free Cone Day and DQ will debut a new cone dip that is blue. They are accepting donations that day and want to beat \$23,000 raised last year for Children’s Miracle Workshop.
- Lebanon’s Winter Wonderland are budgeting for new lights next year.
- Ashley reported new beds, lighting, and updated wiring at nursing home to convert one wing to short term rehab and get their 5-Star rating back. Currently there are 35 people on the long-term list.
- Tiffany said they did a field trip with 5th graders about using a checking account.
- Randy announced Rocking R will celebrate 2nd year open on Sunday.
- Cheri said she’s been told just 40% of necessary hires have been made to conduct Census, so there are still jobs out there.
- A Golf Tourney is being planned at Cardinal Creek for a Chamber Fundraiser.
- Ribbon Cutting at the Lantern will follow March 26 meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2020 at 8:30am in the lower level of the Visitors’ Center. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 (Cheri/Len).

//signed//

Brenda Pehle, Secretary

//signed//

Robin Schultze, Vice 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/lebanonchamberof commerce](http://www.facebook.com/lebanonchamberofcommerce)