

April 23, 2020

## **Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes**

### **Present:**

Atomy/Victorian, Missy Mitchell ( <b>President</b> )	Lebanon Rotary Club, Jeff Thornton
Meridith Funeral Home, Brenda Pehle ( <b>Secretary</b> )	McKendree University, Michele Erschen
Atomy, Rebeca Gabel	Tiadaghton House, Holly Lovell
City of Lebanon, Cheri Wright	Visitors' Center, Joe Zimmerlee
Gateway East Trails, George Fero	
Lebanon Advertiser, Marie Fero	

Future meeting notices will include the zoom link in the body of the email.

The meeting was called to order at 8:37 am via Zoom by Missy Mitchell, President. Joe gave the invocation.

### **Reports:**

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

**(Attachment)**

- March minutes were approved (George/Holly).

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

**(Attachments)**

- Reviewing recent activity, Joe explained that lawn maintenance was paid for the entire season. In addition to mowing back of Visitors' Center, Lawrence Burns cuts the Triangle and Welcome sign board area. Bill's Tax Service was paid \$300.00 for filing tax documents. As we have not paid fee in previous years, that amount will be added to the budget. Missy reported expected dues; she is sending reminders to those who may have lost track of renewal. The good news is dues are up, but we need fundraisers to bolster operational income lost from cancelled events and increases in operational costs. It may be that we will have to borrow Queen funds to cover short fall in short term. Report approved (Rebeca/Brenda).

#### **Visitors' Center**

- Joe says it's awful lonely at the VC, but he is picking up mail and watering plants in front. Missy is keeping in touch with volunteers who are all healthy. She too is making regular stops to call from and check phone for messages and noted fundraising is needed to offset lost rental income.

#### **City**

- City is looking to install glass partition at counter separating the public from clerk's office staff.
- Luanne is posting meeting agendas, which remain "open" to the public.
- Census data shows 56% of Lebanon residents as self-reported; the count includes McKendree students.
- Don's Grocery Store is looking to open mid/end May, the challenge being fully stock shelves.

#### **McKendree University**

- Summer classes will be on-line. Registration for Fall is on par with previous year.
- Sports and activities are cancelled until July. The track is open to public for walking weekdays, 7am-7pm, minding social distance guidelines.
- The university has opened up Wi-Fi to public with access from The Hett parking lot. Michele will send a link for area map indicating availability of Wi-Fi in area.
- With use of 3D printer, PPE head gear has been produced on campus and provided for hospital staff treating Covid-19 patients. Additionally, the university has applied to open dorm rooms as alternative housing for medical professionals assigned to Covid-19 cases.

#### **Merchants**

- Word has it that No Jack, It's a Jill Thing got an SBA loan. The bakery is closing and moving operation to Texas, and Mangiamo's will move into the space.

- Restaurants are doing well: Dr. Jazz and Ron's use cone lanes for curb side service; Lantern, Mangiamo's Grit & Tonic, Cobblestone; kudos to DQ for serving truckers who walk up, and Tipico for employing original Hardees drive-thru window for pick up, chips and margaritas included.

### Website

- Rebeca is available to assist members with their Chamber page set-up, and will prepare a workshop of various features including the highlight links.

### Upcoming Events

- Tiadaghton House will be setting date for September anniversary celebration.
- When *Stay at Home* order is lifted, Tour de Stooges is considering a virtual ride and maybe a children's cycling event.
- AARP classes are cancelled thru July.

### Old Business

- Missy wants to remain optimistic about Business Open House, Over Breakfast, and After Hours, and look to on-line workshops and other activities using technology for the time.
- Chamber Master (notes above).
- Missy would like to establish a committee for cultivating and renewing membership, as well as identify individuals with budget development experience.
- Applications for Fall Festival are coming in. Rebeca would like to get Golf Tourney committee together to finalize prices and advance planning.
- Christmas lighting is on hold because Chamber does not have funds to invest in entirely new set up. Realistically, we can't continue to expect City workers to provide the labor or count on lights to last.
- Agenda items are requested by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month for the next meeting.

### New Business

- Imagining opening businesses, let's brainstorm ideas to draw people back to shopping Lebanon – maybe a chili cookoff in the street? What ideas come to mind when you think of re-opening?

### Around the Room

- Jeff said Rotary meetings are being held via Zoom. Taiwan exchange student remained here; he hopes to take him to visit a farm. Rotary International meeting in Hawaii has been cancelled.
- Marie needs Yellow Box filler for the newspaper and high-resolution photographs of families sheltering in place.
- Missy reported the following businesses open: Big Tex, Christ Bros., Lou's, RP Lumber, Dollar General, and Martin Roofing. First Federal, Farmers & Merchants and Scott Credit Union are open for drive-thru and ATM: First Federal is taking walk-in clients with no face covering. Cedar Ridge residents are staying healthy and admitting. Kari is sole presence at Cedars of Lebanon. Brewers, Horner Park are closed. Paul Jensen is moving back to town in June. Trolley restoration crew is planning Tee shirt fundraiser.

Meeting adjourned at 9:56 am. The next meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2020 at 8:30am.

//signed//

Brenda Pehle, Secretary

//signed//

Missy 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. 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)