

May 28, 2020

Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Atomy/Victorian, Missy Mitchell (President)	Gateway East Trails, George Fero
Robin's Nest, Robin Schultze (Vice-President)	Lebanon Advertiser, Marie Fero
Meridith Funeral Home, Brenda Pehle (Secretary)	Lebanon Rotary Club, Jeff Thornton
Amway, Marc Henrichs	Lebanon Winter Wonderland, Barb Joy
Atomy, Rebeca Gabel	McKendree University, Michele Erschen
Cedars of Lebanon, Lori Thrutchley	Rocking R, Linda Reibold
City of Lebanon, Cheri Wright	Tiadaghton House, Holly Lovell
Dairy Queen, Baron Rana	Visitors' Center, Joe Zimmerlee
Emerald Mound Grange, Mindy Schiefer	Weil Services, LLC, Mary Weil
Fit 4 All, David Tate	Wright Realty, John Wright
Forward Motion, Belinda McAllister	
	Visitor, Amanda Dontigney

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 am via Zoom by Missy Mitchell, President, and Joe gave the invocation.

Reports:

Secretary's Report

(Attachment)

- April's minutes were approved (Michele/Rebeca).

Treasurer's Report

(Attachment)

- Carrie provided additional information about the sign projects: she is waiting for response from powder coaters on Flag (East entrance) for installation. Blocks are in place and landscaping is completed, with solar light installed. At the West entrance, blocks are installed awaiting meeting with owner of property to make sure we incorporate appropriately for property use. South and North signs now have solar lights.
- 2020 Membership dues are \$8,150.02 (extra .02 is credit card trial) surpassing our budget figure of \$7,000.00! Good luck to ALL the businesses during these uncertain times.
- Treasure's report approved (Robin/Michele).

Visitors' Center

- Joe mentioned seasonal appearance of algae growing on the building. A \$20 gift card has been given to Steve Brown for his volunteer service mowing the grass. Missy stated that the Visitors' Center will reopen gradually, with starter hours of 11-3 or 11-2, beginning May 29, as volunteers feel safe returning to the desk. New help is likely needed – and always accepted – as the virus' threat to the older population and persons with health concerns will impact staffing.

City

- Cheri announced that the City was granted the land that the Edward Jones building occupied before the explosion, and the additional space opens up ground dedicated for the Veterans' Remembrance.
- City Hall will reopen June 1. Besides staffing, occupancy will be limited to three visitors and face covering will be required.
- Credit/debit card services will be available soon to pay water/sewer bills and other services.
- A Facebook complaint has been resolved following discussion that the field near the water tower needs to be mowed regularly. The new sewer plant is coming along. Cemetery crew is doing a good job.

McKendree University

- Officials continue to discuss reopening for the Fall. It is yet to be determined if the academic year will begin online or in the classroom. Enrollment is on track.
- Summer events and activities have been cancelled and The Hett schedule has been pushed back with hope of a later but full Season start.
- Some staff members are returning to their offices to work.

Merchants

- Holly reported that merchants have not met lately and that everyone is opening at their own discretion. With guidelines of five persons/1000 square feet, for Tiadaghton House, that translates to 10 person maximum. Holly has installed plexiglass at the check-out counter and is working out one-way directional aids for customers.

Website

- Rebeca would like to have logos from all Chamber members to put onto the Member Directory listing
- Members can use their page to post links under “Highlights” (see McKendree’s page for example). It may also be desirable to post modified COVID 19 hours and update until fully reopened.
- A member’s Facebook may also be linked with their Chamber page.

Virtual Field Trip

- From inside the Fit 4 All gym, Dave showed his meeting space available for rent, and introduced Jamie Runion with Lotus Yoga.
- Dave shared that he has been open the last two weeks and busier than he ever was before the pandemic. He urged all members to become familiar with their constitutional rights and know the difference between a law and an executive order. He asserted that Governor Pritzker can’t withhold money from the City, businesses, or revoke a license. He is willing to share the name and number of his attorney for those who are interested.

Upcoming Events

- The Classic Car Cruise scheduled for June 6 is cancelled.
- The Women’s Club will be meeting in the evening to make a call on the City Wide Yard Sale.
- Small Business Vendor Fair is cancelled; a future date will be discussed when the group meets on June 6.
- Joe and Cheri will meet to determine the fate of the Fall Festival.

Old Business

- Members are encouraged to be creative to host Business Over Breakfast, Open House, and After Hours as guidelines are eased.
- Chamber software allows businesses to submit pictures, links and take RSVPs increasing visibility far more than ever before. Be sure to post upcoming events and contact Rebeca for support and help.
- Marie Fero has volunteered to work on the Membership Committee; more participation is wanted.
- Planning for the Golf Tourney continues. Ideas for additional fundraisers are welcome.
- Christmas lighting continues to be shelved at this time.
- Members may submit business items for inclusion in the agenda by the 2nd Thursday of the month.
- Rebeca and Missy are organizing a re-opening Bingo, in which a card can be downloaded for stamping. Prizes are needed.
- O’Fallon Weekly ads will be up for renewal next month; Missy will get information out on the details.
- Cheri announced plans to take the restaurants onto the Brick Street, June 12/13 and June 19/20, offering open air dining to patrons between 4-9pm. Streets will be closed to motor traffic from 3-10pm. Restaurants will have restrooms open, and the Visitors’ Center will also be open from 5-9pm. Shop keepers are encouraged to be open during evening hours to combine dining with shopping. Excitement is building around these weekend dates.

New Business

- Belinda suggested McKendree students be invited to fill time slots at the Visitors’ Center for service hours with an incentive of a free lunch at a local restaurant or other enticement (she will provide a volunteer with a coaching skill session). Michele will arrange to make opportunity available to students.
- Missy will handle revision to Constitution to allow for membership dues to be collected year-round.

Around the Room

- Brenda said restrictions on gatherings for funerals is hardest on families who look to family and friends to be present and support them following a death.

- Jeff said Rotary has been meeting regularly with Zoom. All events are cancelled through the year, including a convention in Hawaii. Rotary awards two scholarships each year; watch for their names in The Advertiser.
- Belinda said she is getting ready to roll out a brand new format for virtual coaching, moving all services on line. She is a certified John Maxwell coach and providing opportunities for leadership academy for personal and professional growth.
- George spoke of additional trail plans to extend to O'Fallon and Mascoutah through grants. McAllister Park has applied for 501-3C status. Horner and McAllister Parks will be re-opening this weekend.
- Cheri called out to complete the census form, if not already done. The May report indicated Lebanon exceeded it's 60% goal and Cheri is hoping to top 75%.
- Holly is ready to open shop tomorrow!
- Amanda echoed she is gearing up for the weekend.
- Lori assured all is safe at Cedars of Lebanon and there are vacancies they would like to fill.
- Robin will open tomorrow and has new shop hours Wednesday-Saturday, 11-4.
- Baron said its 'business as usual' at the DQ, except for use of the lobby.
- Linda said Rockin' R is opening up today!
- Mindy said the Grange has been using conference calls to conduct business and will meet June 6 to pave a way forward.
- Marie asked to be notified and check the paper for cancelled/rescheduled event dates.
- David reported he is attempting to get everyone's business property taxes exempted for COVID, to the extent that both owner and renter benefits. Taking a long shot, he's also petitioning for sales tax exemption.
- Rebeca suggested Atomy's shampoo/conditioner and HemoHIM supplement for immune compromised health among the many amazing products Atomy offers.
- John gave a status on the coffee shop, which is moving into the bakery building. Foreseeing additional growth, Linda Ott is also taking on the other side of the storefront and plans to hire a baker.
- Robin announced Paul Jansen is moving into the former Aunt Bea's storefront around the end of June.

Meeting adjourned at 10:11am.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 25, 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 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