

## Lebanon Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

### Attendees:

Missy Mitchell, President/Atomy	Tiffany Suydam, First Federal Bank
Holly Lovell, Tiadaghton House	Joan DiMaggio, DBDC at SIUE
Michele Erschen, McKendree University	Baron Rana, Dairy Queen
Belinda McAllister, Forward Motion/Friends of McAllister Park	Rebeca Gabel, Atomy
Joe Zimmerlee, Visitors' Center	Cheri Wright, City of Lebanon
Jeff Thornton, Rotary Club	Lori Thrutchley, Cedars of Lebanon
Robin Schultze, V. President/Robin's Nest, LLC	David Tate, Fit4All

Call to Order: 8:30 am

Minutes – motion Joann Di Maggio/second Dave Tate – approved

Treasurer – motion Rebeca Gabel/second Joann Di Maggio – approved

### Visitors' Center –

- Joe Z announced that Fall Fest funds paid \$187 for shingles, and thanked Wilhelm Construction for donated labor to replace the roof on the Chamber storage shed
- Missy announced that we are in need as always for more volunteers to fill shifts at the Visitors' Center
- Visitors' Center has some pictorial history books on sale, three for \$30 (normally \$25 each for the large books and \$3 for the small booklet) while supplies last
- Saturday, Sep 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 at the Visitors' Center there will be a light brunch and cake to congratulate our new volunteer, Kayla Lange on her graduation from college

### City – Cheri

- A credit card processor will be available soon for people to be able to pay water bills and fees at City Hall
- There were complaints about dead trees and a shed in disrepair at the cemetery: city crew has removed some trees, a quote is needed to have a tree service, and the shed has been corrected
- City Council has discussed whether Halloween will be approved: Cheri Wright proposed 6-8 pm on Halloween if it does not get disapproved due to Covid-19 restrictions

### McKendree – Michele

- Hett is working with the visual performing arts department for a date to be announced for Halloween, and candy will be provided in a safe/socially distanced manner
- Tuesday, Nov 24<sup>th</sup> McKendree will start their holiday, and students will take their finals online to have a longer break rather than returning and having to go through quarantine
- McKendree University is hosting a Virtual Homecoming, see Alumni website for more details
- Missy asked Michele about foreign students, if they will be remaining on campus over the holidays: Michele said that some will be, due to travel restrictions to return to their home countries. Missy has invited some students to her home for Thanksgiving, and asked if there is someone at McKendree who can poll the foreign students who will be in the dorms so that we can solicit host families or do something for them from the Chamber for the holidays
- Michele asked if the Chamber was aware of an Illinois small business loan webinar that is coming up: Missy had not been contacted with the details, Joanna Di Maggio offered to get Lebanon Chamber of Commerce added to their invitation list for the webinar. David Tate was approved for the first round of the small business loans and offered his assistance if anyone needs it to work through the process

### Merchants – Holly

- No new events from Merchants; Tiadaghton House's 7-Year anniversary event went well under the current

Covid circumstances, spread over a three-day period to help minimize foot traffic

- Witches Night Out has been cancelled due to all the other area WNO events being called off, with concerns that there may be too many people who come to the brick street to maintain social distancing

#### Website – Rebeca

- Rebeca stated that there was a major update to the WordPress platform which has caused glitches in the Chamber website. All ChamberMaster links (Events Calendar, Member Directory, etc) work fine, but slides (Chamber Bingo slide) can't be removed from slideshow, normal page updates can't be made, etc. Rebeca has asked TechKnow Solutions in Breese, IL for a quote for what it might cost to do a fix of the Chamber website for those items out of Rebeca's technical know-how to get it back up and running and updated. Will forward quote to Missy and Board for consideration
- Just a reminder that Chamber members can log in to their ChamberMaster Information Center and add events to the Chamber events calendar directly as well

#### Old Business:

- Ideas for drawing business to town: Michele Erschen discussed a marketing pamphlet/tool to attract visitors and businesses to Collinsville and suggested adapting it to fit Lebanon needs. Missy asked if it can be sent to her, so that we can work on at least a digital version that we can offer until we can allocate funds to get some printed for Lebanon
- Nominations for Chamber Officers and Board Members:
  - Nominations are still open until the October meeting to take any final nominations from the floor. It was discussed to do an electronic voting ballot since we have not been able to have all 60 members present in one physical location to do the voting
  - In addition to David Tate for President, Michele Erschen was nominated for the position of President. In addition to Belinda McAllister, Cheri Wright has been nominated for the position of Vice President.
  - Current nominees for Board Members at large are Rebeca Gabel and Tiffany Suydam
- Missy announced that there will be a graduation event for Visitors' Center volunteer Kayla Lange on Saturday, Sep 26, 11:00 for card drop off or stop by. Covid protocols will be observed, brunch and cake available
- Shed Roof – Thanks again to Wilhelm Construction for donating the labor to replace the roof!

#### New Business:

- Missy and Belinda McAllister visited the new McKendree University President to discuss how the Chamber and McKendree University may be of help to one another through possible internships and other opportunities for students to get involved with the Chamber, especially to see if interaction with the business department and Chamber could net positive opportunities. Michele Erschen said that the President did reach out to her as McKendree's Marketing Director after their meeting to look into some possibilities
- How to engage, encourage Lebanon citizens to shop local...
  - o On a positive note, Minerva's is excited to open their second location on the brick street called Minerva Too where the Foundry used to be. It will offer clothing for a younger clientele.
  - o Mangiamo has expanded into the unit to its right for Mangiamo After Hours, another meeting space that will be available as Covid restrictions are eased.
- Fundraiser – Rebeca discussed the possibility of increasing Chamber memberships to make up for the Covid-19 deficit in the annual budget to the tune of \$5,000 that has been borrowed and will need to be repaid to the Beautification Fund due to the cancellation of May Market and Fall Fest this year.
- A ribbon cutting was held on Friday, Sep 18<sup>th</sup> for Scott Credit Union. Due to Covid-19, SCU had requested that we do something very small (hence no announcement to all Chamber members) but they look forward to planning a larger grand opening event once Covid-19 restrictions are eased to be able to invite more of the Chamber members and public at large.
- Budget needs...as mentioned in Treasurer's report, there is a deficit in our annual budget that we need to be aware of and address as we can to repay Beautification Fund for HVAC and ladies room repairs.

- Chamber received a thank you card from Lebanon Lions Club for Lebanon Chamber's \$50 Gold hole sponsorship for their scholarship golf tournament.

#### Around the Room:

- Emerald Mound Grange is doing a fundraiser this Saturday, Sep 26<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 1 pm at True Value in Lebanon; there will be an antique tractor display, funnel cakes, corn dogs, BBQ pulled pork, Pork Steak sandwiches, and more. All proceeds will go to the Alzheimer's Association.
- Joe Zimmerlee announced and Michele Erschen confirmed that the McKendree Art Gallery will be moved to a campus house, and the space on the brick street will be available for rent.
- Lori from Cedars of Lebanon announced that there are some apartments available for rent at their property.
- Jeff Thornton from Lebanon Rotary announced that a Chamber member purchased the remaining tickets for the Milk Raffle, won \$20 and used it to purchase snacks for the volunteers at the Visitors' Center. The big winner was a man from Lebanon who no longer lives here, but donated his one year of free milk (one gallon per week for one year) to the Lebanon Food Pantry for those in need. Jeff was touched by the huge support and generosity of people and support of the Lebanon Rotary's Milk Raffle. After expenses, he was happy to announce that they cleared a little over \$1,000 to be used for Rotary programs.
  - o Jeff also announced as a thank you and support to Lebanon businesses, please contact him with what businesses will be open on Saturday, October 24th and how many workers you have so that they can deliver complimentary donuts in honor of polio awareness day and just to bring some cheer during this Covid-19 tribulation.
- Robin Schultze had to leave meeting
- Joann from SBDC announced an HR For Small Business Webinar in October, it will be placed on the Chamber Events Calendar for anyone who would like to sign up!
- David Tate announced that the 5K has been cancelled for now due to moving, but we will look at some possibilities for October or November for a Santa Claus run, etc. More to come!
- Rebeca Gabel announced a great Acne Expert Care system now available from Atomy, a five-piece set for \$77 that is more gentle and effective than a popular acne product for anyone who has a teenager (or adult) with acne concerns.
- Rebeca also announced that the Belleville News Democrat called the Visitors' Center inquiring if Lebanon has had any businesses close permanently due to Covid-19. They are working on a list of permanent closures in the area. If there are any that are in that situation, please let Missy know.
- Baron from Dairy Queen thanked everyone for their support during extremely long lines at the DQ drive thru. As the lobby remains closed with the restrictions, they are working diligently to help speed up the line. DQ is still doing fundraisers for charities.
- Belinda McAllister from Forward Motion, Inc and Friends of McAllister Park suggested that if anyone is needed to plan socially distanced events in the community, to consider McAllister Park and Horner Park for potential locations!

Meeting adjourned 9:47am.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 22, 2020 at 8:30am.

//signed//

Rebeca Gabel, Atomy

//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)