

Attendees:

First Federal, Tiffany Suydam (**P**)
Christ Bros. Asphalt, Carrie Christ (**T**)
Meridith Funeral Home, Brenda Pehle (**S**)
Atomy, Rebeca Gabel
Atomy, Missy Mitchell
City, Mayor Cheri Wright
Edward Jones, Jessica Gavin
Emerald Mound Grange, Marc Henrichs
Garden Club, Peg Gerdes
Gateway Trails, George Fero

Hughes Group, John Hughes
Lions' Club, Susie Stevenson
McKendree U., Michele Erschen
Rotary Club, Jeff Thornton
Tarsha Homestead, Emily Tarsha
Tarsha Homestead, Alex Tarsha
Tiadaghton House, Holly Lovell
Member, Janet Schmitt
Member, John Wright
Guest: 932d Airlift Wing, Maj. Neil Samson
Guest: Al Gerdes

President Tiffany Suydam called the meeting to order at 8:30am. Missy led prayer, and the meeting proceeded with introductions.

Reports

Minutes November meeting minutes were approved (John/Michele).

Treasurer Report Simply put, the 2023 budget is to pay the bills. Queen pot is \$3,342.00; unless a winner is pulled at the end of the day, the funds will be moved to the Money Market account.

The Chamber's current five-year credit line expires March 30, 2023; consensus was to continue to have access to a line of \$10,000.00 credit (three-years at 7%) for an emergency. All organizations have turned in their tax return forms. A newly formed Horner Park Planning Committee has formed and asked Carrie be a part of it as a Chamber representative; so delegated by Tiffany. The Frey building is currently being gutted for restoration. Lebanon Police Chief has asked permission to mount two cameras on property of Visitors' Center to watch street activity; members present were in full agreement. Bill Milliken has purchased the True Value building from Lou and is transitioning to reopen as Ace Hardware with the Pharmacy on one end of the complex. Approved (Missy/Rebeca).

Visitors' Center Marie Fero is looking for volunteers to fill a Tuesday and a Thursday shift.

City The Council is working with LCUSD to hire a school resource officer beginning next school year; currently, police are present during athletic events. City is also working to have numerous trees taken down and cutting dead limbs from others. Reed Lily has recently been appointed to Ward 3. Several unenforced rules are being revisited and implemented, starting with bike and scooter restrictions on sidewalks and hotel taxes.

McKendree Hett and athletic events abound. Announcements will be forthcoming on numerous moves being made on campus.

Merchants Chocolate Rendezvous is next up February 11; merchants are gathering gift baskets and talking of a baking competition among participants. Sip & Shop is on calendar, TBD. May Market planning is underway.

2023 Events

Fireman's Picnic is making a significant change of date to include rides, now August 11 & 12.

Garden Club's Secret Garden Tour will be over two days: Friday, June 9, 4-7pm & Saturday, June 10, 9-noon.

Chamber will have another Bowling Event at Hank's in Trenton, September 30.

Old Business

Queen of Hearts Pot is \$3,342; game will re-start if a winner is pulled this early. Thursday evenings, Summerfield Lions Club: 5pm doors open; 7pm last ticket sale.

Print Materials Event Sheet on hold for additional date info; a few more merchants are going to use gift certificates; tri-fold is still in the works.

Membership Renewal Dues and paperwork are still incoming.

New Business

Community Events The Library has asked to be included in planning of local events so they might offer special activities that fit the theme simultaneously.

Chamber Open House Among those present, there was interest in having a social to encourage and promote new Chamber membership. A committee will work to iron out all details of where and when.

Major Neil Samson Representing the 932d Airlift Wing Command, Maj Samson presented the scope and breadth of the Citizen Airmen squad and their involvement in world-wide missions and local community. (Touch a Truck was suggested as an activity they could be involved in.)

Around the Room

Carrie: Sign project has her attending to lighting at north entry to town.

Janet: Many enjoyed Winter Wonderland; the small group who set-up and broke down would welcome additional help.

George: Gateway Trails has been awarded a grant that significantly expands the scope and extent of the roadway for cyclers/visitors. For their part, there is \$2M to raise; The Herald will be donating a portion of subscriptions new/renewal to the cause. One hundred helmets are being purchased and fitted to heads of Lebanon grade school children. Bike raffle tickets will be available at upcoming events.

Holly: Sign up Genius will be used this year to gather volunteers to help take care of May Market Vendors, providing water, muffins for early morning set up crews, and lunch runners during the day.

Marc: Grange breakfast will be February 18. April is National Grange Month; members are talking about a combined open house and vendor fair.

Peg: Gardens are still sleeping but wait until Spring.

Susie: Lions members collected \$462.50 in a few short, chilly hours outside the VC during Victorian Night to support the Chamber; she was pleased to present a \$500.00 check at the meeting.

Jeff: Rotary is always looking for speakers and programs. He recently took a group to Midwest Distribution Center in Pawnee to assemble student kits that will be sent to Africa. In the Spring, he'll be taking the group to the Immigration Center in St. Louis.

Missy: Miss J is open for breakfast on Thursdays. Lebanon Boosters will hold a Mouse Race Event on April 28 at Summerfield Lions Club. Missy is also on the ballot for School Board election.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40am.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2023 at 8:30am. The next Board meeting is

//signed//

Brenda Pehle, Secretary

//signed//

Tiffany Suydam, 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)