

Attendees:

First Federal, Tiffany Suydam (**P**)
Fit 4 All, David Tate (**VP**)
Christ Bros. Asphalt, Carrie Christ (**T**)
Meridith Funeral Home, Brenda Pehle (**S**)
Atomy, Rebeca Gabel
Atomy, Missy Mitchell
City, Mayor Cheri Wright
Country Financial, Kailee Conner
Edward Jones, Jessica Gavin
Emerald Mound Grange, Marc Henrichs
Garden Club, Peg Gerdes
Gateway Trails, George Fero
Hangar 18, Amanda (AJ) Dontigney

Library, Lacey Mesarchik
Lions' Club, Susie Stevenson
Looking Glass, Jahn Espino
Matthew Ministries, Andy Fairlie
McKendree U., Michele Erschen
Robin's Nest, Robin Schultze
Rotary Club, Jeff Thornton
Scott Credit Union, Tabitha Bode
Tarsha Homestead, Emily Tarsha
Member, Janet Schmitt
Member, Joe Zimmerlee
Guest: Al Gerdes
Guest: Nicole Robertson
Visitors' Center Volunteer, Dale Trinka

President Tiffany Suydam called the meeting to order at 8:29am. Robin gave invocation, and the meeting proceeded with introductions.

Reports

Minutes January meeting minutes were approved (Rebeca/Missy).

Treasurer Report Taxes were filed; unless there is an audit, the \$400.00 tab will be divided seven ways among umbrella organizations Fall Festival, Lions, Garden Club (x2), Victorian Holiday, Merchants and Chamber (x2). February balance is \$11,190.96. Current Queen pot is \$4,813.00 and growing unless a winner is pulled at the end of the night. Chamber still owes Beautification \$5,500.00 in borrowed funds. Report approved (Rebeca/AJ).

Visitors' Center Weekday shifts are covered through May. VC will open later on Thursday mornings with volunteer staff shortage. Volunteers are needed and need to be better versed about special events. Lights are out on east side of the main level.

City Council is to hear second (of three) reading on permit for chickens. Brick Street trash canisters are not being emptied on schedule; decorative canisters are on hold for hoped for grant. Election signage is restricted to personal property unless otherwise authorized.

McKendree Electronic recycling is being accepted today. Founders Day Week is in full gear. University will soon be conducting interviews for new Hett director. Bearcat Golf, Preview dates and move-in schedule dates are set.

Merchants Sip & Shop is coming up April 1. May Market planning is well underway and first Car Cruise date is May 13.

2023 Events: Additional dates to put on the calendar:

April 7 - Fireman's Fish Fry – returning to dine in with drive thru option
April 28 – Mouse Races
Post City Wide Yard Sale June 3 – Matthew Ministries will collect soft donations
June 9 & 10 Garden Club's Secret Garden Tour will be over two days
August 19 – Horner Park Farmer's Market and Touch a Truck
October 21 – Horner Park Chili/Soup Cook-off and 5K Pumpkin Run
November 18 – Cookies with Santa

Old Business

Queen of Hearts Thursday evenings, Summerfield Lions Club: 5pm doors open; 7pm last ticket sale.

Print Materials New event dates will be added and distributed with QR codes for more details; sheets can be updated and run through the year as necessary.

Tri-folds These will also need to be updated periodically to add new businesses.

City Map This will be available in print and digital format for cost of \$150.00, good for 10 years; Missy, Susan and Carrie are working on this.

Membership Renewal Dues and paperwork are still coming in. Membership Open House is set for Wednesday, March 22, from 5-6:30pm with appetizers at Gasthaus. Costs are being covered by sponsoring Chamber members.

New Business

Letter to City Shop owners on Brick Street are fed up with strewn trash and vandalism caused by late night patrons from bar. Dave, Missy, Brenda will work together to draft a letter to address the ongoing problem.

Black History Month VC display was highlighted in *The Herald*. Members agreed that the paper could be available for sale at the Visitors' Center.

Around the Room

Carrie: Watch for new lighting on entry signs.

Robin: Family deaths have been devastating and she will limit shop hours to weekends until the end of April.

George: Stooges registration is outpacing previous years. Gateway Trails grant funds will be used to fit/buy helmets for local children. GT is planning a bicycle rodeo for youth with emphasis on safety.

Marc: Next Grange breakfast is March 18. April 22 is Small Business Open House, with no fee to participate.

AJ: Hanger 18 anticipates hosting a large guitar show this year.

Peg: Asked businesses to support Garden Tour and scholarship it provides with a \$15 business card ad that will go in printed program.

Joe: Called attention to new lids on street canisters and a spend a fun day in Lebanon flyer.

Jahn: Will represent LGP. Emma auditions are underway

Andy: Matthew Ministries has food pantry and offers financial assistance and help looking for work as part of their service. Just three churches provide resources; there is great need and room for more growth.

Lacey: Summer Reading starts June 10. The library is happy to support special events with activities for families and kids.

Dale: Suggested need for greater communication channels in town with regular newsletter or flyer.

Cheri: School resource officer hire is getting closer. Ace Hardware is opening in the Fall and there are two new business hopefuls. City website is being updated and available for posting events.

Missy: Running for School Board, one of six candidates running for three posts. She is willing to speak for local groups.

Rebeca: Asked for flyers and event postings for the Chamber newsletter.

David: Looking to punctuate the long and cold January/February months with a Winterfest and bring people together to brainstorm this idea.

(Robin/Cheri) Meeting adjourned at 9:43am.

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

//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)