

**Present**

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  
Edward Jones, Jessica Gavin  
Edward Jones, Paul Jansen  
Garden Club, Peg Gerdes  
Gateway Trails, George Fero  
Hangar 18, Amanda (AJ) Dontigney

Lions' Club, Susie Stevenson  
Matthew Ministries, Andy Fairlie  
Scott Credit Union, Tabitha Bode  
Tiadaghton House, Holly Lovell  
Member, John Wright  
Member, Joe Zimmerlee  
Guest: USPS Brian Cloning

President Tiffany Suydam called the meeting to order at 8:32am. Joe gave invocation, which was followed by introductions.

**Reports**

*Minutes* February meeting minutes were approved (Rebeca/Missy).

*Treasurer Report* Rockford Insurance was paid \$2,760.00. On income side, Garden Club paid an additional share of the 2021 tax return and two shares for 2022 return (total \$168.00). Currently, the Queen purse holds \$6,495.00; of that, \$3,356.00 belongs to the Chamber. The Women's Club donated \$25.00, and there are two new individual members. Report approved (Rebeca/AJ).

*Visitors' Center* Marie continues doing a great job managing, but there is always need of more volunteers, especially people who have computer skills. New LED lights will be installed downstairs for a cost of \$525.00; several voices chimed in that recent conversion costs have been reimbursed through Ameren. Problematic lighting upstairs will be looked at further.

*City* Council is working more efficiently as most business is handled in committees. The chicken ordinance will likely be passed. Another ordinance under review is for short-term rentals (i.e. Airbnb) for safety and additional revenue that could be reinvested in the City.

*McKendree* No report.

*Merchants May Market* has 65 vendors signed up at this point. The event will feature live music and a variety of food stands. In planning, there is talk of boosting publicity by posting the names of vendors to public forums. Coordinators say they are coming back strong in vendor support, providing lunch runners, spotters, morning muffins and bottled water. **Sip 'n Shop** is around the corner, April 1.

**2023 Events: Additional dates to put on the calendar:**

April 22 Emerald Mound Grange Small Business Fair  
May 11-14, 18-21 LGP SpongeBob Musical  
June 4 Lebanon Matthew Ministries Collection  
June 10 – July 29 Lebanon Public Library Summer Reading Program  
September 9 Gateway East Trails Bicycle Rodeo  
September 16 Gateway East Trails Rodeo Rain Date

**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 and available in the VC.

**Tri-fold Brochure** Missy will take on to update and distribute.

**City Map** See Carrie to add business sponsorship for cost of \$150.00.

**Membership Open House** There was good participation, great food by Gasthaus and a potential new member at last night's gathering.

### **New Business**

**Letter to City** The Board will address issues of vandalism and unruly behavior with the Mayor and Chief of Police on March 30.

**Lakers** Cruisers are asking to set up barricade at 4:30 on scheduled nights. Formality of letter is due but merchants agree the earlier set up shows activity and is an advantage.

**Fall Festival Donation** \$200.00 was made toward new lighting.

**Signage Improvements** North end posts will get a fresh coat of paint and electric from The Knolls will enable the area to be decorated at Christmas. Project cost is estimated at \$1,650.00; \$600.00 has been donated. There is talk of adding signage pointing to Horner Park from Hwy 4. The addition of lighting on the short cut and the south end of town is being covered by donors; entry from the east has not been picked up to date.

**The Herald** The newspaper is available for purchase in the Visitors' Center.

**Grab and Go** Church sponsors would like to run a prospective summer lunch program from the Visitors' Center; this will be discussed at Board meeting.

**AARP** Safe driver program will be scheduled for summer.

**New Postmaster in Town** Brian Cloninger introduced himself and shared USPS flyers and mailing options for businesses to promote events.

**Magnetic Advertisement** Pricing for placard has been obtained in event Chamber wants to do this again.

### **Around the Room**

Holly: Come uptown for **Sip 'n Shop** on April 1.

Missy: Election day is April 4; become acquainted with candidates and note that some wards are uncontested/write in only.

George: Gateway will fit and give away children's helmets at bicycle rodeo. Stooges is looking to have 1000 riders; tee shirts are available for purchase.

Andy: Lebanon Matthew Ministries is interested in selling water during Car Cruises.

AJ: City website has voter information guide.

Peg: Garden Club will have potted plants for donation at May Market to award annual scholarship to HS graduate and a \$500.00 scholarship to a college or certificate program student studying horticulture.

Susie: Tickets are available for Lions' Club dinner and auction fundraiser April 15 to benefit vision and hearing impaired youth attendance at summer camp. Also, Lions' Club is granting a \$2000.00 scholarship for a junior year college student to help meet education costs in their third year.

John: A new pizza place is anticipated to open soon.

Paul: If a business incurs damage or disorder, let the Mayor know and report it to the police; our officials cannot address problems that they are not aware of.

Brian: Working with City to improve delivery of water bill. Mail from and for Lebanon delivery taken to the PO window may be handled in town; otherwise, all mail is sent out. Rural carrier positions are available with good pay and benefits.

Brenda: Passed along email from Tony Barrel with regrettable news that he is having to close Sure Shot.

David: Reiterated concern that problem with under-age drinking and vandalism will have adverse impact on community and that shrinking school size is another marker for community at risk.

Meeting adjourned at 9:43am. The next meeting is April 27, 2023.

//signed//

Brenda Pehle, Secretary

//signed//

Tiffany Suydam, 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:

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