

Attendees:

First Federal, Tiffany Suydam (P)
Fit 4 All, David Tate (VP)
Christ Bros., Carrie Christ (T)
Meridith Funeral Home, Brenda Pehle (S)
City, Mayor Cheri Wright
Garden Club, Peg Gerdes
Gateway East Trails, George Fero
LCUSD 9, Amanda Ganey

Lions Club, Susie Stevenson
Paisley Place, Rebeca Gabel
Member, Amanda Dontigney
Member, John Wright
Members, Joe and Ann Zimmerlee
Tiadaghton House, Holly Lovell
Guest: Col. Neil Samson

President Tiffany Suydam called the meeting to order at 8:32am. Joe Zimmerlee offered prayer. Introductions followed.

Reports

Secretary's Report

- Minutes were approved (motion Peggy/second AJ).

Treasurer's Report

- Bank balance is \$1,270.37. Earmarked funds for City maps and Square Park lights will be spent soon. Report approved (motion John/second Cheri).

Visitors' Center

- Open shifts are being covered with a few substitute volunteers. Expanded days and hours of operation during holiday season can only be accommodated with additional volunteer staff.
- A schedule of Victorian Holiday activities went to VC as a reference and referral for visitors' questions.

City

- Approved phone for City Hall chamber area will be installed that will enable interested citizens to listen to Council and Committee business when they can't attend in person.
- ACE billboards have been approved.
- Grant application is underway for street, curb and sidewalk work on Monroe St. from W. St. Louis St. to Schuetz.
- New flag pole arrived for placement after Christmas season.
- City is short six trash receptacles; funds are being requested to buy for placement between St. Clair St. and Rt. 4.
- Petty cab ordinance was approved, as was language to remove inoperable vehicles from street/lot and prohibit possession of vaping paraphernalia for persons under 21 years of age.
- Question arose about taking owner of derelict building on W. St. Louis St. to court with realization that expense of legal action is beyond City's purse size.

McKendree University

- No report.

Merchants

- Victorian Holiday will be a very busy weekend for merchants.
- Small Business Weekend is November 25.
- Witches Night Out was a very successful event despite the bad weather.

2024 Events

Add Small Business Weekend in 2024.

Old Business

Print Media: Tri-fold run is on hold until January. City map should arrive in a week or two.

Square Park decorations look fantastic; special thanks to Peggy and Al Gerdes for equipment donation and all the hours put in by volunteers to get it ready for the weekend. More donations are needed for lights, and a reserve fund to draw from for future light repairs/replacement.

Light project letters will be addressed by the Board on November 30.

New Business

- Slate of Chamber officers and board members were re-elected by unanimous acclamation (motion George/second Rebeca).
- Organizations are asked to finalize and submit event dates for 2024 calendar.
- Col. Sampson recognized Mayor Wright as 932d Airlift Wing and Citizen Airman emeritus.

Around the Room

- David attended Illinois Tourism meeting recently. Discussion included relationship with Airbnb and VRBO, and changes in grant criteria for small towns like Lebanon to have a chance at accessing resources.
- Carrie re-emphasized thanks for enthusiasm and efforts to decorate town.
- Holly reported that everyone is working together for Victorian Holidays and she has outfits for those who want to wear period dress.
- George said Stooges has record registrations. He will be preparing for seasonal petty cab operation beginning in April, to run through summer and for special events.
- Rebeca offered thanks for Chamber's support of Paisley Place open house. She will be working on the website to offer facials for birthdays, bridal showers and theme gatherings. She gave kudos to Pamela Rodney for her work on Facebook to promote Victorian Holidays boosting visibility beyond 12,000.
- Peg announced Winter Wonderland's opening for the weekend and asked interested hut helpers to contact Dona Schieppe (618) 792-2014.
- Ann observed the meeting and good work of Chamber.
- John added his comment for the amazing work and collaboration between city workers and volunteers in preparation for Victorian Holidays, and anticipation of the four corners being decorated for other holidays.
- Susie extended invitation to the community Thanksgiving dinner from 2-4pm and said there are six locations for people to participate in the Angel Tree for local children. Lions Club will make cookies and other sweet treats available for donation at Victorian Holidays for the benefit of the Chamber. Christmas trees will arrive right after Thanksgiving.
- Amanda said the school is very proud and excited to have educators in Washington DC to receive the notable Blue Ribbon Award. The school will host breakfast with Santa on December 9 for \$10 per family.
- Cheri added her thanks for the Christmas decorations and folks who participated in Channel 2's recent visit to Lebanon. She said Anthony and the city crew are addressing non-working lights.
- The marque is out.

Meeting adjourned at 9:32am.

The Board will meet November 30. The next regular Chamber meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2024 at 8:30am.

//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)