

Marion County Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors' Meeting

January 19, 2017

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met at the Western Sizzlin at noon on January 19, 2017. Board members in attendance were President Jamie Lawson, President Elect Patrick O'Hagan, Vice President Joyce Burkhalter, board members Nick Holcomb, Walker Henley, and Kathie Tierney.

Others in attendance included Spencer Wayne with Western Sizzlin, Garret Faugot with Covenant Allergy, Allison Smith with Trials Training Center, Aricia Gallaher with Chamblis Law Firm, Cydney Brown with Parkridge Hospital, Sonya McShan with Erlanger Hospital, Mac Bumpus and Dylan Roberson with Mountain Valley Bank, David Anderson and Andrew Lawrence with Colonial Chemical, Town of Kimball Mayor Rex Pesnell, Marion County Mayor David Jackson, and Judy Blevins, administrative assistant for the chamber.

President Jamie Lawson called the meeting to order, recognizing guests and members in attendance.

Note: A quorum of board members was not at the meeting (needed 7, had 6). On issues where votes were needed, motions were accepted and will be forwarded to the board for evoting.

A motion was made by Patrick O'Hagan and seconded by Walker Henley to approve minutes from the November 17, 2016 board meeting. Motion will be subject to evote. (see addendum at the end of these minutes.)

Financial Report:

In the absence of Treasurer Donna Sartin, Judy Blevins presented the "Income and Expense Report" for the month of November 2016 and fiscal year to date, and "Account Balances Report" as of January 18, 2017. Copies were distributed to all present and are on file with the minutes. It was noted that the chamber has changed providers for internet and phone service (from AT&T to Charter) resulting in a monthly cost savings.

Old Business:

A. TN Department of Tourist Development Co-op Grant

Website revision committee met today and is continuing work on content assignments with a deadline of January 31, 2017 for all content to be submitted to the committee. Anticipated rollout is expected by the end of March 2017.

A link to a basic information update form has been emailed to member businesses. Members are asked to complete the form and submit as directed. The information goes to a google spreadsheet and will be used to ensure that member information is current and available as the website is being revised. If the online form is not submitted, it could result in incomplete or inaccurate member information appearing on the website.

New Business:

A. Membership Application

Three applications for chamber membership have been reviewed by the membership committee and were recommended for membership.

- Farmers Home Furniture
- Mountain Valley Bank
- H&H Management LLC

Walker Henley made a motion to approve all three applications. Nick Holcomb seconded the motion which is subject to the results of an evote. (See addendum.)

Mayor's Report:

County Mayor David Jackson

Marion County has begun the application process for the ThreeStar Program 2017 – Fiscal 2018. This year the program is competitive. As a Tier 3 county, Marion is eligible to complete with 21 other Tier 3 counties for fifteen \$15,000 grants.

Mayor Jackson was in Washington DC last week representing the county which was being honored for receiving the federal ARC grant which will be used for a second building at the Kimball site of Chattanooga State. First step is an environmental study. Bids will be accepted in March.

The county is also the recipient of a \$10,000 state grant from the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development. This grant will be used to extend trails from Prentice Cooper through Coppinger Cove to Foster Falls, following the Sequatchie River. This will enhance outdoor tourism in Marion County.

Mayor Jackson informed the group that Governor Haslem is proposing an increase in gas tax in order to generate revenue for highways/roads. The proposal is to increase gas by 7 cents and diesel by 12 cents.

Marion County government is developing a new website.

Dr. Flora Tydings has been named by the UT Board of Regents to be the new chancellor effective February 1, 2017. Debby Adams is the interim president of Chattanooga State while a search committee looks for a new chancellor.

Marion County has received a TVA grant to make some improvements to Marion County Park. Ten 50 amp breakers will be added as well as a new pavilion and other improvements.

Mayor Jackson reported that the ambulance contract with Puckett expires in two months. The mayor indicated that the relationship with Puckett has been positive and that renewal of the contract is anticipated. Input is welcome from anyone regarding the current ambulance service.

Kimball Mayor Rex Pesnell

Mayor Pesnell spoke about the construction of 10 new homes in H & H Management's phase one in Kimball (Battle Creek Road).

Sign up for spring soccer has begun in Kimball.

Miscellaneous:

A sharing time provided an opportunity for businesses present to give updates and to network. Lodge was recognized for their gift of \$112,000 to the victims of fires in Sevierville and Pigeon Forge.

It was also pointed out that littering in our communities is a problem and **causes** the natural beauty of our surroundings to be compromised. Not only is it unsightly for local residents but creates a negative aura for tourists and prospective businesses. Is there something that the chamber could do to address this problem?

Announcements

Announcements were reviewed as distributed. A copy is on file with the minutes.

Trivia Question

Question: How many US presidents have been elected for at least two terms in US history?

Answer: Seventeen have been elected to at least two terms. Fourteen (counting Obama) served the full two terms. (Abraham Lincoln, William McKinley and Richard Nixon were elected to a second term but did not complete their second terms due to assassinations and a resignation.)

Winner: Dylan Roberson's answer of 13 was declared the winner (close enough as at the time of the question Barack Obama was one day shy of serving his complete second term).

Prize was a bag of items associated with the upcoming Super Bowl.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Next monthly board meeting will be February 16th at noon at the Western Sizzlin. Next chamber coffee will be February 14th at SueBob's Diner in Crossroads.

Minutes submitted by Judy Blevins

Reviewed by President Jamie Lawson

Addendum: On Friday, January 20, 2017 Judy Blevins sent via email to all board members a request for an evote on the two motions made during the meeting on January 19th.

Voting aye on both motions were:

Nick Holcomb
Kathie Tierney
Jamie Lawson
Kevin Merrell
Patrick O'Hagan
Aimee Billingsley
Patty Henry
Vicki Messer

Voting nay:

None