

Marion County Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors' Meeting

November 17, 2016

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met at the Western Sizzlin at noon on November 17, 2016. Board members in attendance were President Jamie Lawson, President Elect Patrick O'Hagan, board members Patty Henry, Shelby Potterfield, Walker Henley, and Kathie Tierney.

Others in attendance included Spencer Wayne with Western Sizzlin, Garret Faugot with Covenant Allergy, Charlie Roberts with Trials Training Center, Ron Alred with Sam Werner Museum, 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 Walker Henley and seconded by Patty Henry to approve minutes from the October 20, 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 October 2016 and "Account Balances Report" as of November 16, 2016. Copies were distributed to all present and are on file with the minutes. There were no questions from the floor.

Old Business:

A. TN Department of Tourist Development Co-op Grant

Website revision committee met today and is working on content assignments. Content owners are 1) Chamber Overview – Aricia Gallagher, 2) Our Community – Shelby Potterfield, 3) Tourism – Walker Henley, 4) Economic Development – Jamie Lawson, 5) Photography Acquisition – Committee, 6) Member Listing Database – Judy Blevins. All chamber members are encouraged to make suggestions. Progress on the website revision will continue to be reported regularly.

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. Suggested deadline for submitting forms is December 31, 2016.

B. Membership Renewal for 2016/17

Dues for the current fiscal year are due and payable at this time. Any member who is unsure if their dues have been paid should check with Judy Blevins.

C. Board Member Training

Training for new board members has been scheduled for December 7, 2016 @ 10:30 AM CST at Parkridge West Hospital's board room. Any current board member who has not participated in training or would like a refresher course is welcome to attend.

D. Standing Committees

A handout was given to all present. See handout. Anyone interested in being on a committee is encouraged to see Jamie Lawson or one of the committee chairs.

During the meeting, Spencer Wayne asked to be replaced as chairman of the business grant committee. President Lawson will appoint a new chairman and will report at a subsequent meeting.

New Business:

A. Membership Application

The chamber membership committee has reviewed the application submitted by Jasper Regional History Museum Association and recommends that the board approve membership in the chamber.

Patty Henry made a motion that the chamber accept the application for membership. Shelby Potterfield seconded the motion. Approval is subject to evote.

Mayor's Report:

County Mayor David Jackson

Mayor Jackson began his remarks with a reminder that there is a ban on open burning in the county. Fire departments and volunteers have been working daily to put out brush and forest

fires. Four active fires have been extinguished but one new fire has started in Cade's Cove. The mayor's office is getting updates daily. At last report there were 65 active fires statewide. There is an operations center set up at the old Chattanooga State site in Kimball. There are approximately 120 – 130 firefighters from out of state who have come to Marion County to assist. According to Mayor Jackson, the volunteers have been cordially welcomed and are overwhelmed with the hospitality shown to them.

Because of the drought, some people are experiencing wells going dry. Mayor Jackson asks that anyone in that situation call the mayor's office. Working with the state, the county can make arrangements for bottled water.

At last report the Sequatchie River at Ketner's Mill was running 29 cubic feet per second which is extremely low. TN American Water Company has built a dam on Sequatchie River and is exploring other options. We are in a critical drought situation.

The county has returned three RFI's recently – Rio, Sunrise and Fitz-Roy. The county has also applied for a tourism grant. See minutes from the October 20, 2016 meeting for additional details on the grant.

Mayor Jackson commented on the rock climbing project at Denny's Cove and how the rock climbing community is being drawn to this area as a prime site for rock climbing.

As has been widely reported, Marion County has received an ARC grant to be applied to construction of a second building at Chattanooga State Kimball.

There is pending legislation to come before the state legislature in the next session. If it passes, Marion County stands to get back approximately \$50,000 to promote tourism.

Miscellaneous:

- Ron Alred – Sam Warner Museum in Monteagle. They have 45 vehicles at this time. The motto is "preserving history one wheel at a time." The projected date for a grand opening is May 3, 2017 and will be open Wednesday through Saturday from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Persons interested in seeing the museum at this time, may contact Mr. Alred at 423-580-0472.
- Charlie Roberts – Trials Training Center. They will have their Annual Toy Run Trial on 12/4/16. Proceeds go to Marion County Sheriff's Department Christmas for Kids.
- Patty Henry – Christmas for Kids Fundraiser is planned for Saturday, November 19th, from 9:00 AM until 12 noon at SueBob's Diner in Crossroads. There will be gifts for purchase.
- Shelby Potterfield – Chamber Breakfast will be at Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative at 8:00 AM on Tuesday, December 13th. Silent auction items will be available with proceeds to Relay for Life. Bids will be opened at the conclusion of a soup and sandwich luncheon at the Coop on Thursday, December 15th.

- Spencer Wayne – The Western Sizzlin was proud to serve a meal to 450 – 500 veterans on Veteran’s Day. Every weekend in December, the Sizzlin is partnering with WEPG to give away free tickets to the Grand ‘Ole Opry.
- Patrick O’Hagan – Attended a breakfast at the main campus of Chattanooga State on Wednesday as a kick-off event for advanced manufacturing. Three industries in Marion County have already registered for apprenticeships – Valmont, Jasper Materials, and Lodge Manufacturing.
- Jamie Lawson – Parkridge Hospital is bringing a cardiologist to the Parkridge West campus sometime in the near future.

Announcements

Announcements were reviewed as distributed. A copy is on file with the minutes. Added to the announcements is the Christmas parade at the City of Whitwell – November 26th beginning at 5:00 PM CST.

Trivia Question

Question: Small Business Saturday is November 26th. Name three reasons or advantages why it is important to support local small businesses.

Answer: There are many but the three named by the winner are: 1) Supports the local economy, 2) Enhanced customer service, 3) Local business gives back to the community.

Winner: Spencer Wayne

Prize was a free meal donated by SueBobs Diner in Crossroads.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Next monthly board meeting will be December 15th at noon at the Western Sizzlin.

Minutes submitted by Judy Blevins

Reviewed by President Jamie Lawson

Addendum To November 17, 2016 Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Meeting

Results of Evote

I request for evote to approve minutes from October 20, 2016 and to approve membership application from Jasper Regional History Museum Association was sent to board members via email on Friday, November 18, 2016. As of Tuesday, November 22nd, the following votes have been returned via email:

Voting yes to both motions (see minutes from board meeting on November 17th for motions and seconds):

- Aimee Billingsley
- Marilyn Rodman
- Kevin Merrell
- Jamie Lawson
- Walker Henley
- Patrick O'Hagan
- Nick Holcomb
- Patty Henry
- Vicki Messer

Voting yes - 9

Voting no – 0

Both motions carried.