

## **Marion County Chamber of Commerce**

### **Board of Directors' Meeting**

**September 15, 2016**

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met at the Western Sizzlin at noon on September 15, 2016. Board members in attendance were President Jamie Lawson, Vice-President Joyce Burkhalter, Secretary/Treasurer Donna Sartin, board members Vicki Messer, Patrick O'Hagan, and Kathie Tierney.

Others in attendance included Heather Bearden with Resource MFS, Nicole Osborne and Aricia Gallaher with Chambliss Law Firm, Wendy Barrett with The Princess Theater, Marion County Mayor David Jackson, Kimball Mayor Rex Pesnell, Jasper Mayor Paul Wayne Evans, Russell Cliche, Regional Director for the Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness, Spencer Wayne with Western Sizzlin, and Judy Blevins, administrative assistant for the chamber.

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

A motion was made by Patrick O'Hagan and seconded by Kathie Tierney to approve minutes from the July 21, 2016 board meeting. Motion was approved without dissent.

#### **Financial Report:**

Treasurer Donna Sartin presented the "Income and Expense Report" for the months of July 2016 and August 2016 and "Account Balances Report" as of today. Copies were distributed to all present and are on file with the minutes. There were no questions from the floor.

#### **Old Business:**

##### **A. 2016 Annual Chamber Banquet**

Judy Blevins presented a comparison of income and expenses from the 2015 banquet and the 2016 banquet. A copy is on file with the minutes.

Members were encouraged to provide feedback from the 2016 banquet in order to assess changes for the 2017 banquet.

##### **B. TN Department of Tourist Development Co-op Grant**

President Lawson announced that the chamber has been awarded one of the co-op grants for 2016. (See minutes from July 21, 2016 meeting.) When the contract has been

signed by Commissioner Triplett, the chamber can proceed with the proposal to upgrade the chamber's website.

There was some discussion from the floor as to how to enhance the website. Additional pictures were suggested as well as to incorporate business coupons. (See under New Business – C for volunteers to serve on a website committee.)

#### C. Report from Existing Business Committee

Jamie Lawson, Joyce Burkhalter, and Patrick O'Hagan will continue to visit chamber businesses to determine what is going well, opportunities for improvement, and ways the chamber can be relevant in today's business community.

New appointments will continue to be made.

### **New Business:**

#### A. Election of Officers for Fiscal 2016/17

President Lawson opened the floor for nominations by announcing that Patrick O'Hagan had agreed to be president elect if chosen by the board and that Joyce Burkhalter and Donna Sartin had both indicated that they would be willing to continue as vice president and secretary/treasurer respectively.

Vicki Messer made a motion that we accept by acclamation the above recommendations. Kathie Tierney seconded the motion. All board members in attendance voted aye.

President Lawson welcomed new board members, Kathie Tierney and Patty Henry. He informed the board that Maggie Phillips had resigned from the board and that he had appointed Shelby Potterfield to take Maggie's remaining term. New board member training will be set up in the near future.

A motion was made by Joyce Burkhalter and seconded by Donna Sartin to revise the chamber's bank account by removing Spencer Wayne from the signature card and by adding the names of Jamie Lawson and Patrick O'Hagan as authorized to sign checks. The motion carried without dissent.

#### B. Committee Membership

President Lawson asked for volunteers to serve on committees for the coming year. Committee members do not have to be board members; however, all board members should be on at least one committee of their choice. Committee options include:

- Existing Industry Committee
- Membership Committee
- Banquet Committee
- Website/Social Media Committee
- Business Grant Committee

Wendy Barrett and Aricia Gallaher volunteered to serve on the website/social media committee.

#### C. Request for Sponsorships

Two requests for sponsorships have been received by mail:

- The Greater Jasper Jaycees for the 2016 World Championship Drag Boat Races which will be held at the Marion County Park on October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. A motion was made by Donna Sartin and seconded by Joyce Burkhalter to contribute \$2,500 as a lane sponsor. The motion carried unanimously.
- Relay for Life which is scheduled in Marion County for September 17<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 PM until 10:00 PM on the square in Jasper. Following discussion as to whether this request falls in line with the purpose of the chamber which is to grow and serve industry, the request for sponsorship died for lack of a motion. It was pointed out during discussion that many chamber members are involved with Relay for Life through their individual businesses. It was also mentioned that the chamber has assisted with publicity and providing contact information to the Relay director.

An additional request for sponsorship came from the floor. Patrick O'Hagan asked that the chamber sponsor an upcoming job fair for the Sequatchie Valley to be held at Chattanooga State in Kimball on October 27<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 AM until 4:30 PM. There is no charge for sponsorship. Donna Sartin moved that the chamber put our "seal of approval" on the fair by adding the chamber's name as one of the sponsors of the event. Kathie Tierney seconded the motion which passed without dissent.

#### D. Application for New Membership

Two applications for membership in the Marion County Chamber of Commerce have been received and reviewed by the membership committee.

- Roots Salon, 14 Courthouse Square in Jasper, Tiffany Layne - owner
- Physician's Care, main office in Chattanooga but local office at 625 E 12<sup>th</sup> Street in South Pittsburg

Committee recommends that both be approved. Vickie Messer so moved and Joyce Burkhalter seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

## **Mayors' Reports:**

### Jasper Mayor Paul Wayne Evans

- New message board is up and running outside the Town of Jasper City Hall. If anyone has community events they would like to have displayed, contact city hall or email Mayor Evans.
- Flower pots are being delivered to replace some of the trees that have been removed along the sidewalk around the square.
- Relay for Life is this Saturday (Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>) on the square from 4:00 PM until 10:00 PM. Everyone is invited to come.
- On September 24<sup>th</sup> at MCHS track there will be a walk for the Children's Miracle Network. In conjunction with the walk, New Beginning Church is sponsoring a free family day in the park and the Town of Jasper will be showing a movie in the park.
- The board of commissioners has approved a new pavilion for the park.
- The mayor announced that Jasper will be going to online payment soon.
- There is a new park director, Justin Baker, who will assume that position on September 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Construction of the new road on highway 150 is progressing with a projected completion date of May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Land is being cleared around the Jasper Elementary School.
- Jasper is continuing to accept membership applications for expanded coverage with AirMed.

### Kimball Mayor Rex Pesnell

- The Town of Kimball has been awarded an LPRF grant for \$138,000. It is a matching grant which will be dedicated to park improvements to include a maintenance building, restroom facilities on the soccer field, a new playground area, and maybe some paving on roads at the park.
- A new side-loading garbage truck is expected to arrive the first of next month. Kimball is in the process of compiling a list for distributing new garbage cans.
- Kimball is working on a joint resolution to widen the road between Kimball and Jasper. Both Jasper and Kimball have passed resolutions which will come before the county commission on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

## County Mayor David Jackson

- A new 40'x80' pavilion will be built at Marion County Park and repairs will be done to the boat ramps. To fund the pavilion and repairs a request has been made for a \$25,000 grant through TVA.
- Regarding tourism, Access Land has bought 646 acres in the Denny's Cove area across from the entrance of Foster Falls on highway 150. They have begun clearing trails. When completed, they hope to attract an additional 50,000 people to Marion County for hiking and rock climbing. Hamilton County did a survey of income through rock climbing and determined that for a 2-day weekend income generated per person is \$178. Currently, Foster Falls attracts 30,000 people per year.
- The county did receive a \$500,000 ARC grant to start a rail spur into Colonial Chemical and heading across 156 toward the port property. The county is working to get the port property designated as a state-certified site.
- The county is expecting to receive a 1.5 million dollar grant to apply to a second building at Chattanooga State Kimball. While it is not official yet, the county has been invited to apply which in most cases indicates that an announcement is forthcoming. This would not have happened without the support of the county commission, Mayor Jackson said, and it will be a great asset to our community and to our workforce and business partners.
- Early college at Chattanooga State is expected to start next fall.
- One thing the chamber could help with is accessing technical training needs. County unemployment rate is at 6.4%, but there are many who are not counted in that number because they have dropped out of the workforce. This is a problem not only for existing business and industry but also when attempting to recruit new industry.
- The Greater Marion County Manufacturer's Association will be recognized at the Southeast TN Development District's annual meeting. Mayor Jackson reported that the association has done a great job since beginning in January 2016. The association meets at the Western Sizzlin the last Thursday of each month.

### **Miscellaneous:**

Russell Cliché, Regional Director for the Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness, addressed the group. The rising cost of health care emphasizes the important of health both on a personal and on a business level. Marion County is part of the governor's initiative for a Healthier Tennessee. Marion County Health Council has formed a "Marion on the Move" initiative. The goal for Marion County is to have six or more businesses sign up. For more information above the Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness, see [www.healthierTN.com](http://www.healthierTN.com).

TN River Rescue, scheduled for October 1<sup>st</sup>, is looking for a sponsor or sponsors to provide a dumpster near Sullivan's Bait Shop in Marion County. Let Judy know if interested.

## **Announcements**

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

## **Trivia Question**

Question: Name three places where an application to register to vote can be obtained in Marion County? (No one could name three so we changed it to two.)

Answer: Any two of the following – county election commission office, county clerk’s office, public libraries, register of deeds office, TDOH, TDHS, TDIDD, TDOMH, TDOS (motor vehicles), TDOVA, online.

Winner: Donna Sartin

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. Next monthly board meeting will be October 20<sup>th</sup> at noon at the Western Sizzlin.

Minutes submitted by Judy Blevins

Reviewed by President Jamie Lawson