

Marion County Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors' Meeting

October 19, 2017

The Marion County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met at the Western Sizzlin at noon on October 19, 2017. Board members in attendance were President Patrick O'Hagan, Past President Jamie Lawson, and board members Kathie Tierney, Donna Sartin, Joyce Burkhalter, Garret Faugot, Brett Del Balso, Todd Mistrot, and Vickie Messer.

Others in attendance were Wendy Barrett with N2 Publishing, Andrew Lawrence with Colonial Chemical, Carla Harris with Colonial Chemical, Kyle Holland with US Stove and H&H Management, Terry Kerlin with First Choice Storage, Whitwell Police Chief Mark Tillery, Deanna Stott with Hospice of Chattanooga, Spencer Wayne with Western Sizzlin, Kimball Mayor Rex Pesnell and Jayne Pesnell, Marion County Mayor David Jackson, guest speaker Allie Greer with tnAchieves Mentoring Program, and Judy Blevins, administrative assistant for the chamber.

President Patrick O'Hagan called the meeting to order and recognized guests and members in attendance.

A motion was made by Todd Mistrot and seconded by Vicki Messer to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2017 board meeting. Motion was carried without dissent. A copy of the minutes is on file in the chamber office.

Financial Report:

Judy Blevins presented the "Income and Expense Report" for the month of September 2017, "Income and Expense Report" for fiscal year through September 30, 2017, and "Account Balances Report" as of October 18, 2017. Copies were distributed to all present and are on file with the minutes.

Old Business:

A. Anti-Litter Campaign

Andrew Lawrence, chairman of the Anti-Litter Committee, gave the following report of events that have taken place since last month's board meeting:

- Marion County participated in the 2017 Tennessee River Rescue. South Pittsburg Interact Club worked under the blue bridge in South Pittsburg. Whitwell Interact Club worked at Marion County Park and campers and individuals worked at Shellmound Campgrounds.

- Marion County 4-H students (grades 4 – 8) are participating in an anti-litter program led by UT Extension/ TSU staff. This represents 65 classes of students in Marion County. We will report more on this at next month’s board meeting.
- Colonial Chemical had a clean-up event last weekend on the area of their responsibility as a part of the state Adopt-a-Highway program in New Hope. They see improvement in decreasing the amount of roadside litter.

City and county mayors present at the meeting were asked to report on anti-litter activities within their municipalities, obstacles they encounter, and if they have suggestions for the chamber’s litter prevention campaign.

- City Manager Todd Mistrot, City of Whitwell – A clean-up campaign was begun in Whitwell following Labor Day to focus on litter along the parade route and at the city park. The city is also working with local officials to coordinate litter pick-up with persons needing community service hours.
- Mayor Rex Pesnell, Town of Kimball – Kimball has been fighting litter for years. They have a routine schedule with the maintenance department which includes picking up litter on right-of- ways and public parks.

The town has purchased a sidearm garbage truck and sturdy garbage cans which have reduced the amount of litter scattered during pick-up and have made it more difficult for animals to get into garbage.

The town is also looking to work with commercial vendors as the town realizes some of the litter comes from the purchase of goods and the packaging of items. The town would like to encourage more outside trash receptacles as an appropriate vehicle to dispose of trash. The town is considering ways to coordinate with businesses and would like to give an incentive of some kind to cooperating businesses. This is still in the planning stage.

Kimball has been spreading the word to others to participate in the fight against litter. At the suggestion of Mayor Pesnell, the Tennessee Department of Health has purchased trash receptacles to be given to each county municipality combining the litter campaign with the health department’s stop smoking campaign.

Finally, Mayor Pesnell wanted to recognize the TN Bass High School Fishing Trail. Part of the fishing program is sponsored by Shimano and is called “Leave it Better”. The anglers receive a blue see-through bag at the beginning of each tournament. At the end of the tournament, the bags are brought back to the weigh in site with the trash from the day out in their boat in exchange for Shimano discount coupons. Then the director of the tournament disposes of the trash in order not to leave trash at the weigh-in site or in

the river or on the riverbanks. This is a great lesson of environmental stewardship for the participating youth.

- Marion County Mayor David Jackson stated that in coordination with state litter grant money the county has budgeted \$12,000 additional dollars to increase hours of litter pick-up to 50 hours per week on county roads. In addition the sheriff's department has a contract with TDOT to pick up on state roads three times a year. Mayor Jackson has noticed some improvement but recognizes that there is a major problem with fast food wrappers, cups and bags.

Terry Kerlin pointed out that the grants cover only state and county roads and that the grants do not include picking up on incorporated city/town streets. Therefore, it is incumbent upon city and town officials to play a role in picking up litter within their catchment areas. Mr. Kerlin urged all members to speak with their city and town officials to encourage a routine of litter pick-up within their city limits.

Wendy Barrett asked if recycling was part of our campaign. It is not at this time but it may develop in the future. Ms. Barrett also suggested that we reach out to fast food corporate offices who may have programs to assist in litter prevention.

Discussion followed as to the role fast food businesses could play in deterring roadside litter. The chamber's anti-litter committee will discuss further in committee.

New Business:

A. Membership Application

- Morris Family Chiropractic – the chamber has received an application for membership. The application has been reviewed by the membership committee with recommendation to approve. Currently Morris Family Chiropractic has an office at 7401 E. Brainerd Rd in Chattanooga but plans soon to open a second office at 400 Dixie Lee Center in Kimball, in the building complex with Southern Rehab and Aquatics.

Todd Mistrot made a motion to accept Morris Family Chiropractic as a chamber member. Brett Del Balso seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Speaker

The chamber was pleased to welcome Allie Scalf Greer, Mentor Coordinator, to speak about tnAchieves and their collaboration with Tennessee Promise to match students with volunteer mentors. The role of mentors who must be age 21 or older, as explained by Ms. Greer, is three fold: to be a task-master, a resource and an encourager.

Mentors are paired with 3 – 10 students per year with an annual commitment of 12 volunteer hours. Marion County needs volunteer mentors as the application deadline of December 1, 2017 is fast approaching. If interested, apply at tnAchieves.org.

Mayors' Reports:

Speaking on behalf of the City of Whitwell, City Manager Todd Mistrot encouraged everyone to come on October 28th to the chili cook-off. He thanked Lodge Manufacturing for donating dutch ovens and Prologue for donating wood products for this event. There will be other activities throughout the day. See flyer on file with the minutes.

Kimball Mayor Pesnell deferred to Kyle Holland to discuss the upcoming "Christmas for Kids" which will be at the Kimball Park on November 4th. There will be activities throughout the day including a car and truck show, arts and crafts, and a silent auction. All proceeds benefit the "Christmas for Kids" programs of Marion County. See flyer on file with the minutes.

Marion County Mayor Jackson reported that there is a consultant currently working with Marion, Grundy, Sequatchie and Bledsoe Counties to assess and recommend ways to enhance opportunities for tourism growth in the Sequatchie Valley. This was made possible through a state grant. Another grant which will be brought before the county commission for approval this month is for \$85,000 to do a recreational assessment for Marion County and the municipalities within the county.

Marion County has received a \$325,000 grant from the State Health Department with a \$50,000 match to build onto the existing health department. The county has also received a \$151,000 clean energy grant to do energy improvements to the courthouse, the annex, the election commission, and the justice center.

The county has been working for about three months with hopes to recruit a company called "Project Steel" to locate in Marion County. This would represent a \$100,000,000 investment in Marion County to build a 43 megawatt plant. Representatives from Project Steel will be visiting again in November. The county hopes to have an answer by the end of the year.

Mayor Jackson reports that soon there may be announcements of three new retail businesses in Marion County.

The mayor commented on the success of the ODBA World Championship Races that was held recently at Marion County Park and the positive economic impact it brings each year.

The county is working with the development district to develop a marketing plan for the county.

Phase II of Chattanooga State Kimball Site is progressing well. Walking track is open to the public.

New playground equipment and a pavilion is being added to Marion County Park. This was made possible through donations from Colonial Chemical (\$30,000) and TVA (\$25,000).

Miscellaneous:

President O’Hagan announced that he has appointed a new committee whose goal is to organize and implement new activities and events aimed at increasing chamber revenue and membership along with increasing tourism to Marion County. The committee is called the “Events and Tourism Committee”. Named to that committee are Brett Del Balso and Garret Faugot. Any other chamber members who might be interested in serving on that committee should contact Patrick O’Hagan.

Persons present at today’s meeting shared information about their organizations and upcoming events. One addition to the printed announcements was offered by Joyce Burkhalter. On October 27th all First Volunteer Bank branches will have their annual Tailgate-a-Palooza. All proceeds of goods and cash will go to the Marion County Food Bank.

Announcements

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Next monthly board meeting will be November 16, 2017 at noon at the Western Sizzlin.

Minutes submitted by Judy Blevins

Reviewed by President Patrick O’Hagan