



Chamber Board Meeting Minutes

Date: January 11th, 2024

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 a.m. by President, April Hayes, at Southern Boone School District Central Office.

Board Members Present: April Hayes (President), Jesse Wheadon (Vice President), Claire Linzie (Treasurer), Faryn Griffin (Secretary), Ken Bishop, Letitia Denhartog, Izzy Smith, Virginia Steiger, Jacob Garrett

Absent: Melissa Kartoka (past president)

Quorum: Yes

Welcome – Introduction of Guests

Dr. James Zielinski with MidMOChiro LLC dba Ashland Chiropractic & Wellness.

Nicki Rinehart & Lynne Hooper – Boone County Resource Management (Storm Water Initiative) Greater Bonne Femme Watershed. Many streams flow into bass creek which is in Ashland. They want to protect and store our waterways and also see better management practices across the Bonne Femme Watershed. Their goal is also to reduce pesticides in the waterways. City of Ashland is on the implementation committee.

How does this plan fit with the city of Ashland? They have looked at comprehensive plan of city of Ashland. Looking at maximum amount of daily loads. The initiative will work to limit TMDLs.

Boone County can help with education and outreach: already support schools, FFA, YMCA by doing watershed programs. They can help with beautification.

John Martin asked why the 2007 plan was not implemented? Grant was very limited. Didn't carry a plan for moving forward.

Additions to Agenda

No Additions.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the December meeting were presented.

Jesse Wheadon and Ken Bishop made a motion to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved and amended by the board.

Treasurer's Report

The December 2023 report was presented:

Income \$0.00

Expenses: \$2,120.45 - Paid insurance renewal, stamps and outstanding membership deposits, along with a couple outstanding checks for Faryn payroll.

Monthly End Bank Statement as of December 31st, 2023 and cash balance on hand as of January 11th, 2024 was \$47,911.73.

Motion was made by Faryn Griffin and Virginia Steiger to approve the treasurer's report. The treasurer's report was approved by the board.

Committee Reports/New Chairpersons

Membership/Ambassadors: Jacob Garrett

63 renewals for the year. Jacob and Tracy are working with new businesses to update on the benefits of the Chamber.

There was a November and December spotlight. Southern Boone YMCA is spotlighting in January.

Ribbon Cutting:

Working on scheduling cutting with 63 Storage.

Mary Jane's ribbon cutting is scheduled for 4/20.

New Members:

No new potential members. Jacob gave a shoutout to some of our new Chamber members.

Liberty Family Medicine – Beth and Jason

Turner Ag Solutions – Sam Turner

63 Storage – Heather Smith

American Family Insurance – Abby Harmon

Special Events: April Hayes

Annual Meeting January 25th at the Burg. RSVP by the 17th. Send Tracy an email or text.

Special Events committee is working on a business Show Case with a job fair. There will be sponsorship opportunities along with the Show Case.

Website & Newsletter: Faryn Griffin

If there is anyone not on the newsletter or getting the emails for the meeting, get in contact with Faryn. Same with if a business wants any information blasted in the newsletter or the website needs updating.

Budget & Finance: Tracy Banning

Chamber has looked at doing an audit for the end of the year. Claire has looked into some options. Audits start about 5k. Some professionals suggested a financial review. Claire will get a couple of the estimates together and send to the board to discuss. Isabelle suggested looking at the University for students to review or audit us. May be a cheaper option.

City of Ashland Report: Kyle Michael

No updates from the City.

SBEDC: Kyle Michael

Brandon gave update – good turn out at meeting yesterday, January 10th. They are looking at upcoming vacant positions for city boards and committees. Kyle discussed the upcoming bond issue with educating the community. SBEDC cannot support this issue. Discussed a public/closed format for future meetings.

ABC: Izzy Smith

Held a Zoom meeting on Monday, January 8th due to the weather. Izzy gave update on Reindeer event back in December. They sold about 247 drink tickets. Estimate around 500 people.

They are working on relationship with Missouri Main Street.

Their goal for 2024 is to host all 5 events they did in 2023. Trivia Night, 4th of July Parade, Firework Show, Kentucky Derby Watch Party, Santa and Reindeer Event.

Planning on getting more planter boxes for the spring.

Attended the ARPA meeting to apply for funds.

Looking for volunteers. 6/9 volunteers. There is no membership cost. Go to website for the volunteer form to fill out if you or anyone you know is interested.

Unfinished Business

Consultant Fees for Board Retreat

Back in September, this was brought up on how we can improve our membership and the Chamber. Jacob gave update on this process. Chamber would also like to add a government affairs committee to become transparent with all groups. Next step is to hire a consultant. Board approved last month on hiring a consultant. Jacob reached out to other local Chambers on who they would recommend and pricing estimates.

Tom, with Next Step, brings unique perspective on businesses. Proposed a SWOT analysis. This is crucial to figure out where our gaps are within the Chamber. The board retreat will be open to the board only. However, we need input from ALL members. Goal is to capture everyone's ideas and thoughts. Where are we now? Where do we want to be? How do we get there?

Process would follow as so: Board retreat > follow up meeting > another follow through meeting. Cost breakdown \$1650, \$800, \$800 & \$475. TOTAL = \$3,725

Brandi, with Sage, build and refine company cultures. Utilizing an unbiased party, makes the best party. Her approach is to look at all members and come together.

Consulting fee is \$2,000 covers a workshop and includes a mid-year consultation.

These fees were not originally in the budget for 2024.

Beth Cowgill said people and business she knew had great feedback on both consultants and that both would make a great choice.

April asked for a motion to approve up to a \$5000 expense for a consultant for 2024. Motion was made by Izzy Smith and Virginia Steiger to approve the \$5,000 expense for a consultant. This motion was approved by the board.

April will put together some information with the consultant's info and cost, the board will vote by email on who to go with.

Authorized Signers on Bank Account

Motion was made by Jacob Garrett to add President, April Hayes, Vice President, Jesse Wheadon, Secretary, Faryn Griffin, and Treasurer, Claire Linzie, as authorized signers to the Chamber bank accounts. Isabelle seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the board.

REDI – Event Champion Sponsor

REDI on the road program, they serve all of boone county and want to highlight all the things going on. Two events have already been here in Southern Boone Area YMCA. Costs are growing with hosting the events. REDI is looking for an event champion. The event is March 21st. Asking for \$1,000 to support the event. This will allow the Chamber to get up and talk about the community. With that, we will be offered at the investor engagement with a status on the board. One person from the Chamber can get up and speak on the board. Lisa is also asking for 2 – 4 people to help with the event. The board will take the offer to email and make a decision.

New Business

Appointment of Committee Chairs

Need to vote on committee chairs.

Tracy for Special Events.

Claire & Jacob for Membership.

Faryn Griffin for marketing/communications.

Claire Linzie for budget and finance.

If anybody is interested in joining the committees, let Tracy know.

Jesse Wheadon made a motion to approve committee chairs for 2024. Izzy Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the board.

Upcoming Bond Issue – Bond is Feb. 6. All revolves around state revolving fund. Kyle passed around a fact sheet. There is a workshop on Wednesday evening at City Hall at 6 pm and the 28th at 2 pm on a Sunday. These are public forums with wastewater engineer and staff. The bond needs a simple majority.

Lisa mentioned that this seems to be a recurring issue.

Chamber will reshare posts on Facebook to educate members. Also the information for the bond issue can be found on the city website. Or can contact Kyle about any questions. They will also discuss at the Optimist breakfast.

Business prospects:

None.

Other Announcements:

Bill Ruppert makes a stop to get the journal here in Ashland. He mentioned the Gasconade paper has a lot of information. How does the Chamber feel about the support of the paper? Tara has been working with the Columbia Missourian about using county and state articles that they published. If there is anything that can be reported, please let Tara know. Businesses need to help provide the paper information. Lisa mentioned that COMO magazine has guest writers. They really rely on the

community experts to provide guidance.

Adjourn

Motion was made by Letitia DenHartog and Claire Linzie adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:22 a.m.

Next Board Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 8th, 2023 at 8:00 am at Central Office.