



Chamber Board Meeting Minutes

Date: December 14th, 2023

Call to Order

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

Board Members Present: Melissa Karotka (President), April Hayes (Vice President), Faryn Griffin (Secretary), Jesse Wheadon, Laurie DiPietro, Letitia Denhartog, Izzy Smith, Virginia Steigers, Tim Roth (Past President)

Absent: Tracy Banning

Quorum: Yes

Welcome – Introduction of Guests

Monte Miller – Wisper Internet

Additions to Agenda

No Additions.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the November meeting were presented.

Letitia Denhartog and Izzy Smith made a motion to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved and amended by the board.

Treasurer's Report

No treasurers report was presented.

Committee Reports/New Chairpersons

Membership/Ambassadors: Jacob Garrett

Committee is working on membership improvements – wanting to establish mission of the Chamber. Talked with other local chambers and chamber staff. This is ongoing discussion.

130 renewal invoices were sent out.

Ribbon Cutting:

Jacob Garretts Ribbon Cutting was last week. He wanted to thank everyone for their attendance.

New Members:

Potential members - Randy's Auto, Yummy Yo's, American Family Insurance

Special Events: April Hayes

Thankful 4 You Lunch was a success with 84 lunches provided from Hyvee. Some of the committee handed out Moose Munch at the Christmas Tree Lighting.

Next event is our Annual Meeting, January 25th at 6 p.m. Ashland Optimist. There will be no awards, just the meeting and dinner.

Website & Newsletter: Faryn Griffin

Reminder that we are using constant contact, the new platform. Have done updates to the website making sure links were correct. If anyone has any changes or information to get out, please send to Faryn.

Budget & Finance: Tracy Banning

Tracy was absent. April mentioned there has been discussion on doing an audit at the end of the year. They will look at prices to hire an accountant and report back.

City of Ashland Updates

City of Ashland Report: Kyle Michael

Airport is updating the master plan. If any businesses do anything with the airport, they need to contact Kyle for survey information regarding the master plan. Dr. Hoyle is retiring, and they will be rebranding. The new chiropractor has been made aware of the Chamber, but we want to make sure to reach out and get with them once its establish. Dominoes is opening on the 18th of this month. Yummy Yo's will be opening very soon. They have a couple more things to take care of before they can get opened. Mary Janes also has a couple more items to work through before opening. Boone Corner has 2 suites available at this time. Perry Avenue is near completion. It is curing at this time and once done, they will work on the sidewalk and then remove the access from 63. RFQ has been submitted upon the Park Board project. There are vacancies on the planning and zoning board. This does need to be filled. 1/17th and the 28th will be a wastewater treatment public meeting. Landuse development code meeting has been ongoing. This will be used to clean up the codes. Also working alongside a consultant to complete this. ARPA funds are available. This will be the final cycle of the funds. During previous cycle, the Optimist and school received money.

SBEDC: Kyle Michael

Yesterday SBEDC had a quorum. Working on bylaws and making changes. January 2024 goal is to appointment office slate. There will be board vacancies.

ABC: Izzy Smith

Reindeer and Santa – great turn out for visitors and business involved. ABC is looking at at doing this event again as well as all the events from 2023. They will have vacancies to fill in 2024. January meeting will not be on the 1st. Will announce once a date is determined. The meeting will be more of open house style.

Unfinished Business

Bylaws are still being worked on. Hopefully present them at the February meeting. Jacob proposed a workshop to get the mission and bylaws finalized. Maybe would like to see a consultant come in and help out. The board will get together and find a date that works after the end of the year and beginning of the year.

New Business

Wisper Internet Presentation – not satellite. Celebrates 20th anniversary. They are looking to hire employees from any covered areas. They also would be interested in any sponsorship opportunities. CAF program was granted \$443,560 committed to Boone County. There are two towers in Ashland and 1 tower in Columbia. They have an Affordable Connectivity Program for those on medicade. Eligible households get a discount on fees and devices. 20% of students would qualifies at Southern Boone. They also serve businesses and could possibly look for repeaters or other places to put a tower.

Business prospects:

None.

Other Announcements:

REDI is looking for individuals to help the quarterly event.

School District Updates

Food Drive for families in need is going on. You can drop off any items at the schools.

Ranken is doing a soft start January 10th. Welding and IT classes. There is a director on site 3 days a week. There is no enrollment number yet.

April 24th there will be a bond issue for the high school. It will be for ag department expansion on the north side of the building. Info is available on the school website as well. Starting to look ahead at a 2027 bond issue that will focus on performing and fine arts.

There are openings for the board of education.

January 18th – Business Networking event at Bell Bank Mortgage 5:30 pm. Send any RSVPS ot Jacob Garrett or Laurie Dipietro

Adjourn

Motion was made by Izzy Smith and April Hayes adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Next Board Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for January 11th, 2023 at 8:00 am at Central Office.