

Albion Chamber of Commerce-Board Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2022

Members Present: Chris Magnuson (P), Steve Hook, Patti Gatman,

Sharon Leitch (T), Mariah Keirn, Ken Cripe, Carla Fiandt (VP)

Absent: Kay Craig, Sandy Petrie (S)

Also present: Lori Gagen, Catchy Creations, LLC

Meeting was called to order at the CN board room by Chris at 12:00 pm.

Minutes: Minutes from the November 14, 2022, meeting as well as the treasurer's report were reviewed with Ken making a motion to approve the minutes and accept the treasurer's report. Mariah seconded; motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: Beginning Balance (11/14/21): **\$10,578.42**

Revenue: **None**

Expenses: **None**

Bank Balance (12/12/22): **\$10,578.42**

Old Business:

Christmas in the Village Wrap Up 2022: There was good turnout for this event. There was also the same number of parade entries as last year. Eric Custer helped with placing lights on the courthouse square Christmas tree. He also purchased a laser light for lighting the tree. Tammy purchased ten Be Noble gift cards to hand out to children having the ten golden tickets. Tammy also took pictures of 9 of the ten winners and placed them on Facebook. It was suggested to have this event moved to a Saturday. May bring more spectators out. Since this will be Tammy Luce's last year to Chair this event, Chris would like to recognize Tammy at the Chamber Annual event. Someone will need to volunteer to Chair this event in 2023.

Chamber 2023 Budget: This was discussed with the following line-item changes: Dues—changed from \$6,000 to \$6,500; Garage Sale—changed from \$300 to \$400; Halloween—changed from \$350 to \$450; Website/Domain-- \$2,000 to \$750 (\$200 for hosting/renewal & \$550 for discretionary). Ken made a motion to approve 2023 budget and seconded by Mariah, motion approved. Carla stated she's having difficulty getting members to turn in forms. Chris will send out PDF version of 2023 budget to Lori for placing on Chamber website.

Chamber Annual Meeting Feb 2, 2023: Social time 5-6pm with dinner at 6pm. Dinner was discussed and will be baked Swiss chicken (cheese, ham, & chicken), baked steak, mashed potatoes/gravy, honey glazed carrots, salad, dinner roll and drink. Dinner will be served buffet style. Carla will order and Chris will mail invitations, dues forms—payments optionally made online. Will encourage members to update their profiles. We will be honoring both Ken Cripe and Tammy Luce for their years of service. Sandy won't be in attendance, but suggested member's business-based trivia. Can use info for introducing members, to learn more about them, and use for social media and website. Lori will provide an overview of the new chamber website. It was decided to allow non-members to attend the meeting. Chris will provide eight vases, the last from her collection, with flowers from A Thyme to Remember. Member door prize ticket, form and ballot provided at signup.

New Business:

Skate Park Donation: There was discussion about the proposed Lion's Club sponsored skate park to be built at Hidden Diamonds Park. John Estes has helped establish many skate parks around the U.S. and is providing support for ours. Liability for the skate park would be handled by the Town of Albion. We have \$750 of miscellaneous funds left for 2022. Steve made a motion to donate \$250 toward this project. Carla seconded. Motion approved. John may be invited to attend our next board meeting.

Annual Membership Drive: Carla and Chris will be working on printing letters and membership forms to be sent in the mail. Members now have the option to pay dues via PayPal. Members paying online will be encouraged to add their business logo and to update their profile. Chis mentioned she will be attending a meeting at the Rome City library at 4pm today to discuss a 5-County Chamber membership proposal. It's cheaper to have this membership vs. individual chamber memberships. We currently have twelve Albion Chamber members belonging to multiple chambers. Many County Chambers aren't increasing their membership fees for 2023.

Flag Program: The board thanked Dr. Cripe for his years of running the flag program. Outside of membership dues, the flag program is our biggest money maker. Both Patti Gatman and Mariah Keirn will co-chair this program moving forward.

Announcements/Functions/Dates/Events:

- Dairy Point owners of Ligonier has purchased the One Ten West Main business. They are waiting for their food/liquor license before opening.
- We received a thank you note from for a chamber donation.
- We need a new board member to replace Ken Cripe. It was suggested Sarah Regan be his replacement.
- Sharon stated that the \$500 check written on Sept. 12th and made out to the Albion STAR Team hasn't been cashed. Steve will check with Mary Ann Troutner.

Annual Meeting – February 2, 2023, at Blessed Sacrament with social hour at 5pm and dinner at 6pm.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 12:57 pm.

Next Meeting: Next meeting will be January 9, 2023, at noon at the CN Central Office board room.

Submitted: Steve Hook