

Albion Chamber of Commerce Minutes
February 22, 2024
“2023” ANNUAL Meeting

The meeting was held at the Blessed Sacrament Church with President Chris Magnuson welcoming everyone and then leading us the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. (approximately 65 people present)

Chris went over the documents provided to each member. Members received the 2023 official ballot, door prize ticket, the 2023 list of Chamber expenditure/balances, the agenda, and a trivia contest worksheet. She also shared many of the great projects that the Albion Chamber has been involved with and supported. None of the things would be possible without member dues.

Chris introduced the current board members: Mariah Keirn, Sandy Petrie, Sharon Leitch, Pattie Gatman, Steve Hook, and Carla Fiandt. Jordan Hartleroad was unable to attend due to illness, and Kay Craig resigned earlier in the year for personal reasons.

Mariah discussed the financials from 2023 which started with a balance of \$10,578.42. Revenues were \$9,829.61 (expected was \$8,400) and expenses were \$11,927.17 (expected was \$12,400). Mariah stated that the \$1,746.27 cost for Christmas in the Village was actually two years worth of expenses with 2022 expenses being paid in 2023.

Chris recognized **New Members and New to Town businesses**: Half Acre Cafe under new ownership, Family Dollar, Jake's Floor Care LLC, Interiors by Evonne/Taylor Home, The Dude's Corner, The Diehm Team, Taylor Specialties, Norther Chic Creations, French's Custom Powder Coating & Sandblasting, Pork-n-Cleaver, Danijo's Thread Shop, Butterfly Alley Gifts, Realtor Lucas Deck, Daylilly Estates, and 5C Farms Event Barn. New members get their first year of membership in the Chamber free.

Chris said that we currently have a total of 122 members of all types: individual, small business, industry, non-profits and that it takes all of us working together to make our community strong. We also have about 1,250 Facebook followers which is wonderful considering that Albion's population is only about 2,225.

Chris then talked about all the wonderful things happening with **grants/facades/improvements**. In 2023 several took advantage of this opportunity: Newman and Newman Law LLC, the Courthouse Square Preservation Society for fencing, Ragan Chiropractic LLC, Taylor Home, Noble Enterprises, and TBE Investments. Chris also talked about the flag program that the Chamber sponsors to help make our downtown beautiful and a place of pride. She said that we fly 88 flags throughout town that are fully paid for through sponsorships.

We had a great group this year with the biggest ever attendance and everyone introduced themselves and who they were affiliated with.

Chris talked about the Chamber Survey and how the feedback will help guide the future of the Chamber.. Every table had the QR code for this.

Sandy Petrie talked about the local logo trivia sheets given to everyone and then introduced the ballot

asking for nominations from the floor. There were none. She explained there were seven open positions up for election since Chris, Carla, Sharon, and Kay were all “retiring” from the board. Since there were no nominations from the floor, all seven listed would be on the board, but the five with the highest votes would have two year versus one year terms and the other two who would have one year. That is why she asked that members only vote for five people. Results were counted during dinner and announced at the end of the meeting: Pattie Gatman, Mariah Keirn, Amy Leedy, Ashley Peterson, and Melissa Wellman received two year terms. Chad Dull and Jordan Hartleroad received one year terms along with Steve Hook and Sandy Petrie who are both serving out one more year of their two year term.

Steve Hook thanked the Blessed Sacrament Church Ladies’ Sodality for the meal and the venue and then said a prayer for the meal and our group.

Towards the end of the meal, Sandy started off updates from the floor with information about the library and opened it up for anyone else to share updates or big news about their own organizations. Several individuals shared happenings with their businesses and organizations and numerous new businesses also shared how pleased they were with how welcoming and supportive Albion has been.

Chris gave special appreciation to Carla and Sharon who have been on the board along with her for numerous years and expressed how she was excited to see the new faces and interest in so many wanting to become board members as the three of them step away.

Sandy then went through all the logo answers and three individuals had right answers to 23 out of 27. Sandy tried to rule one or more of them out if they didn’t know the library logo, but all three had that one right too so all three got to choose one of the beautiful centerpieces of a vase (provided by Pattie) and flowers (provided by a Thyme to Remember).

Steve auctioned off a gorgeous quilt and two runners on behalf of the Ladies’ Sodality and raised almost \$200 for them.

Door prize tickets were drawn for the remaining flower centerpieces and several other items provided by Chris that included candles and items from Wellows Marketplace.

Chris ended the event with her final duty as Board President saying “This meeting is adjourned”

Following the annual meeting, Matt Getts from KPC Media took a picture of the new board and the new board did their first piece of business by setting their first meeting date of March 11th at noon at the CN Administrative office. Sandy also asked for board approval to move forward with the flag program since timing is critical to get them ordered, get sponsors, and get them put up by Memorial Day. Mariah made a motion to approve moving forward on the flags with Steve seconding and all approving.

2/23/24 Sandy Petrie – Chamber Secretary