

Albion Chamber of Commerce-Board Meeting Minutes - August 14, 2023

*Members Present: Chris Magnuson (P), Sandy Petrie (S),
Pattie Gatman, Steve Hook, Carla Fiandt (VP), Mariah Keirn, Kay Craig, Sharon Leitch,
and our newest member Jordan Hartleroad*

Absent: None

Guest: Lori Gagen

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

Minutes/Treasurer Report: Minutes from the May 8, 2023 meeting were reviewed along with the treasurer report. Mariah made a motion to approve the minutes of the May meeting and accept the treasurer's report. Steve seconded, motion approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Beginning Balance (5/1/23): **\$11,750.14**

Revenue: **\$1,193.42**

Dues: \$893.42

Flag Program: \$300

Expenses: **\$683.85**

Catchy Creations: \$123.85 (\$99-Feb-May website; \$24.85-domain)

Erie Liability Insurance: \$205

Ft. Wayne Newspapers: \$355 (garage sale flyers)

Bank Balance (8/1/23): **\$12,259.71**

Correspondence:

Chris shared a thank you from Fireworks, and invited everyone to the No Co Community Foundations open house and the Thrive Leadership Academy is open for people to sign up.

Old Business:

Flag Program: Final tally - 57 sponsorships for a total of \$2,850. Total expenses for this year's flags and poles were \$2,749.50. We know that the flags took a big hit so far this year because of storms so anticipate another year of high cost for next year. Lori mentioned the potential to put the application and ability to pay on our website like our dues set up. She is aware that we have some issues with resolving fees received through PayPal with the company they correspond to. She will work with Mariah/Carla to ensure this is simplified and easier to track. She may look at another paying vendor like WIX other than PayPal. If it works out for dues, we may consider adding the flag program and the garage sale sign up program to this.

Town wide Garage Sale (and other Chamber projects): This is tabled for now, but Pattie has some ideas on how this program could run smoother. After some discussion, Sandy said that it might be time to have a longer meeting so we can discuss ALL our projects and re-visit what we do, why we do it, and is it the best way to do it or should someone else be doing it? Our engagement in the community is important, but our responsibility to local businesses needs to remain a priority.

Goodwill Truck: Went well but for the first time, there was a line which clogged things up a bit. There was some discussion about potentially moving this to the town hall since the lot we use is also used for the post office which is open the same hours. The Town Hall seems like an appropriate location since the electronics recycling happens there and there is a lot more space for traffic to maneuver. Chris will discuss this with the town and then get with Kay on her thoughts and ideas.

Annual Membership Drive: We finally received funds from Kendallville for the "county" memberships. Overall, we added some members but had four previous members that did not pay. We will not pursue those.

Noble County Chamber Status: With Kendallville dropping out, Chris has been working with Avilla, Rome City, and Ligonier to continue the "county" collaboration without Kendallville. We feel that the benefit of collaborating and potentially getting members that may not otherwise join, was still valuable to our organization. Sandy made a motion for us to continue the partnership in the new direction, Kay seconded, motion approved. Avilla will take

the lead with collecting dues for the group. We all thanked Chris for not giving up and the partnerships with other Chambers.

New Business:

Jordan Hartleroad: Jordan is our newest board member and shared a little about herself. She works full time and the Northeastern Center (NEC), part time at a Veterinary Hospital in Fort Wayne, and volunteers at Black Pine. She recently moved to Albion and wants to be engaged in our community. WELCOME Jordan!

Halloween Party: Will be Tuesday, October 31st. We decided to move it up to 6:30 instead of 7pm since many kids need to get home for bed before school the next day. We are going to try the new time this year and see how it goes. Set-up will still be at 5pm at the fire station. We will continue to cook the hotdogs on the stove then transfer them to the roasters to keep warm. This helps speed up the process. The costume contest will be at 7:15.

Christmas in the Village: Mariah is meeting with Tammy Luce tomorrow (8/15) so will have more information at the September meeting. The event/parade will be on Saturday, December 2nd which allows the school to be more involved.

COL Festival and STAR Team Event: This year's event went well. There was concern about where the event would be for 2024 since the courthouse square is shut down for courthouse renovations. Chris doesn't manage this event anymore but did say that if we lose the carnival vendor by not having an event in 2024, it is virtually impossible to ever get them back. This happened in Avilla and even the Noble County Fair.

Small Business Saturday/Townwide sales: Pattie wants to lead a new Chamber project around Small Business Saturday which is a National Event that falls on November 26th this year. This is a project that will focus on small business in a way that makes them feel more connected to each other and the Chamber. She has also been researching other communities and how they handle town wide garage sales and will share some of that information at the next meeting as we further discuss our projects and roles and think about where we want to focus our efforts and how.

Courthouse Fountain: Some concerns about the fountain and flowers were brought up but will be tabled until the next meeting.

Hickory Treatment Center Bible Fundraiser: A request for support to help provide specialized recovering addiction bibles to the residents of the Hickory Recovery Center in Albion was presented. We will also discuss this further at the next meeting.

Announcements/Functions/Dates/Events:

Halloween Party - October 31st 6:30-8:00pm at the Fire Station

Small Business Saturday: November 26th (more to follow)

Christmas in the Village: December 2nd (includes evening parade of lights)

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Next Meeting: Next meeting will be September 11th at noon at the CN Central Office board room. This may be a two-hour meeting or another special meeting may be called to discuss the many things that were tabled today.

Submitted: Sandy Petrie