



*Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce*  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, October 28, 2020 – 7:30 a.m.  
Zoom Meeting

Present: Beau Hartman, Allen Hendriks, Bobbie Jacobs, Rita Moyer, Mike Funk, George Gonzalez, Angie Eggum, Heather Lee, Ryan Langemeier, Jeff Woodside, Mike Chandler, Shari Jensen and Elaine Wallace

Absent: Kevin Miland

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**Welcome:**

- Mike Chandler called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m. Mike thanked George for serving as Chamber President this past year.

**Reports:**

**City of Albert Lea (Daphney Maras, City Clerk):**

- Cold Storage Facility looking to locate in Albert Lea.
- In the former Nelson's MarketPlace building – a rental housing unit with 51 units – not affordable housing project is moving forward.
- Applied for a Grant to clean up the hazardous wastes at the Blazing Star area where a developer is looking at building apartments.
- Al's Chicken and Burger shop is going into the former Jerky Store out by Maurice's.
- The former A-Best building at the corner of Garfield & Main will be a liquor store.
- Approved a 2-way stop sign at the corner of East 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Todd Avenue.
- Virtual tours are still available for the new Fire Station.
- The new City Manager will begin on November 9.
- City Hall is still closed to the public.
- Vote on Tuesday elections!

**Freeborn County (Tom Jensen):** Not Present

**CVB (Holly Karsjens):**

- A new mural will be painted at Academy Park – to be completed next spring.
- Spooktacular is this Thursday from 4 – 7 pm.
- Deer Widow Opener shopping is Nov. 6 & 7.
- Working on ideas for the holiday season for the big flowerpots and store fronts.
- Historical Museum is holding a Red, Whites & Brews Raffle thru Nov. 16.
- New Downtown tear off map pads were distributed to the downtown businesses.

**ALEDA (Phillip Johnson):**

- Working with two developers: a) townhomes and b) downtown area.
- Mercy One is moving forward. Opening date is July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The Freeborn County non-profit grants were awarded with 15+ receiving grant monies.

**Ambassadors (Melissa Barr):**

- 24 Members
- Financials: CD, 2<sup>nd</sup> CD and unrestricted funds.
- 117 Membership renewals and 4 new Chamber Members
- Winter Gear Drive boxes delivered.
- Blood Drive – Oct. 30 at Northbridge Mall.
- On facebook – Welcome Home Arik Matson.

**Consent Items:**

- September 2020 Chamber Meeting Minutes were presented. George Gonzalez made a motion, seconded by Mike Funk to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
- September 2020 Chamber Financial Reports were presented. Mike Funk made a motion, seconded by Bobbie Jacobs to approve the financials. Motion carried.

**Chamber Funding Updates:**

- County Nonprofit Grant – applied for two grants: Operational losses we received \$7,500 and request for funds to roll out First Aid/CPR/AED Program was denied.
- Member dues are coming in and we have 4 new members
- Generous donation from REG for scholarship fund (\$5,000) and a matching funds incentive of \$5,000. Angie Eggum has agreed to help Shari with verbiage to solicit for the matching funds from other businesses.
- Fundraisers – the Painted Horse in Glenville declined the offer due to COVID requirements and winter weather coming.

**Chamber Member Benefit Updates:**

- Continuing to offer 20% discount on past due membership dues.
- Rolling out program to promote Chamber Bars & Restaurants in September. May continue in October with promoting retail.
- Now offer QR Coding
- Now offer complimentary Notary Service
- First Aid/CPR/AED – applied for funding from SHIP to offer these classes. Mrs. Gerry's and Daycare Providers are interested in these classes.
- Mental Health First Aid for Adults – classes now available and checking into shortened classes.
- Annual Meeting Alternate Plan – The nominees for the Large, Medium and Small 2020 Business of the Year Awards have been selected. George Gonzalez, Heather Lee, Bobbie Jacobs, Mike Funk and Mike Chandler have volunteered to assist in the preparation of the video/pictures. Winners will be called to give them a 'heads-up' for pictures and presentations.

**Community Updates and Partnerships:**

- Winter Gear Drive now through Jan./Feb. Partnering with United Way
- CVB Halloween Spooktacular Drive-thru is Oct. 29, 4-7 p.m.
- Blood Drive is Oct. 30, noon – 6 pm at the Northbridge Mall. Partnering with the Red Cross.
- Main Street and CVB/Deer Widows Big Buck Hunt Shopping Event is Nov. 6 & Nov. 7.
- Main Street and CVB/ Small Business Saturday – Bingo is thru Dec. 12.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Angie Eggum and seconded by George Gonzalez to adjourn the meeting.

The next Meeting will be Wednesday, November 25, 7:30 a.m. via Zoom.