



Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, December 18, 2019 – 7:30 a.m.

Chamber Board Room

MINUTES

Present: Mike Funk, Kim Nelson, Mike Chandler, Angie Kolker, Bobbie Jacobs, Tricia Dahl, Heather Lee, Geri Jensen and Elaine Wallace

Ex-Officios Present: Phillip Johnson, David Todd, Susie Petersen, Melissa Barr

Absent: George Gonzalez, Angie Eggum, Kevin Miland, Beau Hartman

Welcome:

- Tricia Dahl called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

REPORTS

City of Albert Lea (David Todd):

- Working on Union negotiations

Freeborn County (Tom Jensen): Not Present

CVB (Susie Petersen):

- Attended a Strategic Planning meeting with several counties on the watersheds.
- A Twin City Van Club is looking at hosting a July rally event here in Albert Lea.
- Regarding the Marion Ross statue, bricks will be sold with donors' name and placed in the area of the statue on the corner of North Broadway and Water Street (north of the Community Theater).
- CVB Board is moving forward with the process of Susie's exit.

ALEDA (Phillip Johnson):

- Strategic Planning results are completed. A Community Event will be held in late January to explain the results.
- Working with four developers on housing projects.
- A new business opening announcement will be made in a week or two.
- Met with Riverland and others to discuss the topic of the gaps in training.

Ambassadors (Melissa Barr):

- They have two new Ambassadors – Andrew Schwarz and Amanda Carlson.
- The 'Shop Local' Campaign. Feedback was very positive from the members. The businesses stated that they were glad to have the Ambassadors visit.

Welcomed New Board Member Heather Lee

CONSENT ITEMS:

- The November Chamber Meeting Minutes were presented. Mike Chandler made a motion, seconded by Kim Nelson to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

- The November Chamber Financial Reports were presented. The credit card fees for the last year have doubled. Geri Jensen will check into this. Mike Funk made a motion, seconded by Bobbie Jacobs to approve the financials. Motion carried.

CHAMBER COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- Business Education Collaborative (12/6/19)

OLD BUSINESS:

- Four Board Member applications have been received (Brad Kramer, Robert Hoffman, Jeff Woodside with Select Foods and Jeff Ewing with POET). Kim Nelson made the motion to accept the application of Jeff Woodside. Seconded by Angie Kolker. Motion carried. Our Interim Executive Director Torrey Zimmerman will let Jeff Woodside know of his acceptance to the Board. Letters will be prepared and sent to the remaining candidates.
- Kim Nelson reported on the Book Club that will be meeting at The Outlet beginning in January. The Chamber has five copies of each book for sale.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The future of the Governmental Affairs Committee was discussed. We need to continue with this Committee with clearer direction. Janelle Koepke is willing to Chair this Committee.
- T-shirt expenses versus income. Cash sales are \$1,555.45.
- An Ad Hoc Group is looking for volunteers to explore ideas for our Business After Hours. Making sure the new businesses are aware of the event. Bobbie Jacobs and Heather Lee have volunteered to be a part of this group.
- The MN Chamber Legislative Priority Session is being held on February 11. Kim Nelson is looking for additional attendees. To-date she has Phillip Johnson, David Todd, Tricia Dahl, Ellen Kehr, Mike Chandler and Kim Nelson.
- The Board Retreat is being scheduled for February. Jay with Three Oaks Winery has mentioned that he would host the Retreat.
- Main Street was discussed.
- Albert Lea Makes is researching ways to accept donations/payments towards the Organization. They were wondering how to run the monies through the Foundation.

Adjourn: Motion made by Kim Nelson and seconded by Bobbie Jacobs to adjourn the meeting.

The next Meeting will be Wednesday, January 22 @ 7:30 a.m. in the Chamber Office Board Room.