



Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 23, 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, Kevin Miland, Shari Jenson and Elaine Wallace

Welcome:

- Mike Chandler called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m.

Reports:

City of Albert Lea (Ian Rigg, City Manager):

- Working with the Cold Storage Facility looking to locate in Albert Lea.
- Clean up work will begin on the Blazing Star property for the 48 unit housing complex.
- Clean up will begin on the property that housed the warehouses that were destroyed by fire.

Freeborn County (Tom Jensen):

- Working with ALEDA on the new Small Business Relief Grant Funding Program.
- Public Health Dept will be assisting with the vaccinations on Wed/Thurs beginning with the retirement communities.
- New Commissioners will be sworn in on Jan. 4.

CVB (Holly Karsjens):

- Proposed new signage for the front of our building was viewed/presented.
- A donation from a local business was received for hand sanitizer to be distributed throughout the community.
- Working on 2021 events.
- Continue to promote takeout from restaurants and shop small to help our small businesses.

ALEDA (Phillip Johnson):

- Working with two larger developers and three potential small businesses.
- Working with the County on the Small Business Relief Grant Funding. The information will be released the first week of January.

Committee Updates:

Chamber Foundation – Shari reported

Ag Committee – Bobbi reported no meeting held in Dec.

Ambassadors – Allen Hendriks reported meeting to be held in Jan.

Business & Education Collaborative – Mike Funk reported that elementary in-person students will begin Jan. 11 and secondary will be 2 days a week in-person and 3 days a week on-line.

Governmental Affairs – Shari reported

Worksite Wellness – No meeting in Dec.

Employee Resiliency – Shari reported

Consent Items:

- November 2020 Chamber Meeting Minutes were presented. Bobbi Jacobs made a motion, seconded by Mike Funk to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
- October 2020 Chamber Financial Reports were presented. George Gonzalez made a motion, seconded by Heather Lee to approve the financials. Motion carried.
- November 2020 Chamber Financial Reports were presented. Rita Moyer made a motion, seconded by Bobbi Jacobs to approve the financials. Motion carried.
- Proposed changes to budget line items – Shari brought line items to the Board’s attention. Discussion was held, no motion necessary to move line items.
- Holiday and PTO Policy changes – Angie Eggum made a motion, seconded by Bobbi Jacobs to approve the changes. Motion carried.

Chamber Financial Updates:

- REG Donation was received
- Checking account balance and Chamber Bucks – going well
- Potential new credit card processor – change in credit card processor. Will discuss in Jan.
- Potential new bookkeeper – Shari has talked to a gentleman that is not from Albert Lea but is located in Freeborn County.

Chamber Member Benefit Updates:

- First Aid/CPR/AED – applied for funding from SHIP and will be applying for grant funding from Mayo.
- Mental Health First Aid for Adults – classes now available
- Collaborative project with NAMI and Lou Rich – on hold
- First two HELP presentations given – will continue to be given the 22nd of every month at 2 PM. Shari will send invite to Board Members so they can share with their employees.
- Annual Meeting – plaques are almost complete.

Community Updates and Partnerships:

- Winter Gear Drive now through Jan./Feb. Partnering with United Way
- Blood Drive is scheduled for December 31 at the Northbridge Mall. 2021 Blood Drives are all scheduled for every other month.
- New Facebook page – Pay It Forward Freeborn County
- Big Freeze – Hiding of the Medallion – the preliminary plan is to have the radio stations give out the name of the business that holds the clue in finding the medallion.

Adjourn: Motion by Angie Eggum and seconded by Ryan Langemeier to adjourn the meeting.

The next Meeting will be Wednesday, January 27th, 7:30 a.m. via Zoom.