



Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 – 7:30 a.m.

Chamber Board Room

MINUTES

Present: George Gonzalez, Beau Hartman, Angie Kolker, Kim Nelson, Bobbie Jacobs, Torrey Zimmerman and Elaine Wallace

Ex-Officios Present: Phillip Johnson, David Todd, Kim Nelson

Absent: Tricia Dahl, Mike Funk, Mike Chandler, Angie Eggum, Kevin Miland, Heather Lee, Jeff Woodside

Welcome:

- George Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 7:39 a.m.

Presentation: Andrew Bernau with Hill, Benda, Skov & Bernau P.A. presented the Financial Statements dated September 30, 2019.

REPORTS

City of Albert Lea (David Todd):

- Attended the 'Meet the Sculpture' on the unveiling of the clay model of Marion Ross. The life size bronze sculpture will be unveiled July 4.
- Construction on Bridge Avenue will begin May 1. Currently trees are being taken down along Bridge and will be replaced 2 to 1.
- Thursday night is the community Strategic Planning Event at Wedgewood Cove.

Freeborn County (Tom Jensen): Not present

CVB (Susie Petersen): Not present

ALEDA (Phillip Johnson):

- The last community Strategic Planning event is Thursday at Wedgewood Cove.
- Numerous housing developers should be signed within the next 2/3 months.
- Five new businesses looking at Albert Lea, with two of our current businesses on expanding.
- Local home Child Care providers are being offered a \$10,000 grant. Attended a presentation on shared work space involving child care.

Riverland Community College:

- Enrollment is up 3.5%. On-line enrollment is huge.
- Construction of the trades and transportation classrooms will be ready by Fall 2020.

Blue Zones (Ellen Kehr): Not present

CONSENT ITEMS:

- The January 2020 Chamber Meeting Minutes were presented. Kim Nelson made a motion, seconded by Bobbie Jacobs to approve the minutes. Motion carried (via email votes).
- The January 2020 Chamber Financial Reports were presented. Kim Nelson made a motion, seconded by Bobbie Jacobs to approve the financials. Motion carried (via email votes).

CHAMBER COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:

- Business Education Collaborative (2/7/20)
- Chamber Foundation (2/14/20)
- Worksite Wellness (2/21/20)

OLD BUSINESS:

- Legislative Session: Was held on February 11, with a full table of 10 attending. Minnesota Chamber priorities were Health Care, Workforce, Child Care and Transportation.
- Book Club: Starting new book 'The Ideal Team Player'.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Governmental Affairs Committee: Meeting will be set up for March.
- Business After House Exploratory Committee: No updates.
- July 3rd Parade: Working with the City on potential parade routes due to the upcoming construction on Bridge Avenue.
- Fundraising for July 4 Fireworks: Should be working on additional ways/options to raise funds.
- Executive Director Search: Sub-committee to meet with Torrey on the job description and getting the job posted. Suggested that Mike Chandler head up the group.
- Motion by Kim Nelson, seconded by Angie Kolker to transfer \$7,000 from the Edward Jones account into the checking account. Motion carried (via email votes).
- The Chamber web-site will be updated/set-up to show a donation page.

Adjourn: Motion made by Kim Nelson and seconded by Angie Kolker to adjourn the meeting.

The next Meeting will be Wednesday, March 25, 7:30 a.m. in the Chamber Office Board Room.