



*Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce*

**Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, May 27, 2020 – 7:30 a.m.

Zoom Meeting

**MINUTES**

Present: George Gonzalez, Beau Hartman, Angie Kolker, Kim Nelson, Bobbie Jacobs, Heather Lee, Tricia Dahl, Mike Funk, Angie Eggum, Jeff Woodside, Torrey Zimmerman and Elaine Wallace

Ex-Officios Present: Phillip Johnson, Kim Nelson, Holly Karsjens

Absent, Mike Chandler, Kevin Miland

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**Welcome:**

- George Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

**REPORTS**

**City of Albert Lea:** Not Present

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

**CVB (Holly Karsjens):**

- The 'Gift Card Challenge' is a great success. More donations are coming in.
- Main Street Project: Holly dropped off gift bags to the businesses which included hand sanitizer, signage of 'shop local', and masks.
- Selling t-shirts with the funds going back to retailers.

**ALEDA (Phillip Johnson):**

- City Administrator has resigned.
- Two developers are still working on new housing units in the Blazing Star and Wedgewood Cove areas.
- Loan Program for small businesses is available which is a forgivable loan as long as they stay in the community for 5 years.

**Riverland Community College:**

- Construction of the trades and transportation classrooms are ahead of schedule. No Open House has been scheduled to-date.
- Applications for attending in the Fall are low compared to last year.

**Chamber Ambassadors:** Not present

**CONSENT ITEMS:**

- The February 2020 Chamber Meeting Minutes were presented. Tricia Dahl made a motion, seconded by Mike Funk to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
- The March and April 2020 Chamber Financial Reports were presented. Angie Eggum made a motion, seconded by Kim Nelson to approve the financials. Motion carried.

**CHAMBER COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:**

- Chamber Ambassadors (5/13/20)

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- July 3 & 4 Activities (parade and fireworks): No permit is being issued by the City for fireworks (social distancing). The beach is closed. The Fairgrounds cannot be used for staging and Bridge Street is under construction
- Albert Lea Leadership: June is the graduation ceremony which will be held thru Zoom. Board Members should begin to recruit individuals for the next session.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Executive Director Search: 10 applications have been received to-date. The sub-committee will meet Friday to review the resumes. Torrey has agreed to remain with the Chamber thru June 21 to assist with the transition. Mike Funk made a motion, seconded by Beau Hartman to have Torrey remain thru June 21, as needed. Torrey will draw up a contract. Motion carried.
- Business After Hours Exploratory Committee: Bobbie and Heather are going through ideas on how it would work virtually.
- Holly Karsjens and Torrey are work on a 'drive by parade' with businesses and community members.
- Reminder that the terms of Kim Nelson and Tricia Dahl will expire October 2020.

**Adjourn:** Motion made by Mike Funk and seconded by Tricia Dahl to adjourn the meeting.

The next Meeting will be Wednesday, June 24, 7:30 a.m. via Zoom.