



*Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce*

**Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, July 22, 2020 – 7:30 a.m.

Zoom Meeting

**MINUTES**

Present: Beau Hartman, Kim Nelson, Bobbie Jacobs, Tricia Dahl, Mike Funk, Mike Chandler, Angie Eggum, Shari Jenson and Elaine Wallace

Ex-Officios Present: Holly Karsjens, Phillip Johnson, Melissa Barr

Absent: Kevin Miland, Jeff Woodside, George Gonzalez, Angie Kolker, Heather Lee

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**Welcome:**

- Mike Chandler called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

**REPORTS**

**City of Albert Lea (Jerry Gabrielatos):** Not Present

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

**CVB (Holly Karsjens):**

- A new mural will be painted on the building at Lakeview Park this weekend.
- There is a State Youth Baseball Tournament at Snyder Field this weekend and the first weekend in August. Food trucks will be available for food/refreshments.
- Ski Show Tournament in town this weekend.
- Moving into the building with the Chamber and ALEDA by August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Searching for billboard locations. Creating a possible Welcome/Shop Albert Lea billboard at the south end of town.

**ALEDA (Phillip Johnson):**

- Working with six developers. Unable to disclose much, more information to follow.
- Revamping the COVID Grant Program 'Cares Act Funding'. It is now a Grant with eligibility at 20% loss of income. Phillip, Shari and Holly are reaching out to businesses with the applications.
- Meeting with Tom Jensen (County) and Erin Haag (United Way of Freeborn County) on a possible non-profit grant program.

**Ag Committee (Bobbie Jacobs):**

- 4-H Livestock Event – have permission to use the fairgrounds. Participants will be able to drive their animal in, show the animal and leave. We have sent out a letter of support to the Chamber Members.

**Ambassadors (Bobbie Jacobs):**

- The Bingo Card challenge has been discontinued. Only had one entry for the month of June.
- Still have T-shirts for sale at the Chamber Office.
- Will do visits for a while wearing the T-shirts.
- Yard signs for 'Buy.Shop.Enjoy. Shop Local' have been/are being distributed around Albert Lea.

- Flare for the Fourth winners were Albert Lea Art Center and The Children's Center.

### **CONSENT ITEMS:**

- The June 2020 Chamber Meeting Minutes were presented. Tricia Dahl made a motion, seconded by Kim Nelson to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
- The June 2020 Chamber Financial Reports were presented. Kim Nelson made a motion, seconded by Beau Hartman to approve the financials. Motion carried. Shari checked on the Heartland Credit Card contract/fees. We had been charged for two accounts (\$125 each). She is working on getting some reimbursement. Offered a 20% discount on Past Due accounts and payments are slowing coming in.

### **CHAMBER COMMITTEE MEETING – FYI Only:**

- Worksite Wellness (meeting was held – no agenda/minutes) (7/17/20)

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Albert Lea Leadership: Shari has researched the program with Austin and Owatonna regarding their programs and expenses (we need 25 individuals to break even). Austin is still holding their 2020-2021 program and Owatonna has decided to cancel for this upcoming year. Shari recommended that we step back for this year because of the COVID since we can't do visits and touring of businesses and make some modifications to the program for 2021-2022. Tricia Dahl made a motion, seconded by Bobbie Jacobs to approve stepping back from holding the program this year. Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Biodigester and Biodiesel Projects: Bio wastewater facility/digester breaks down the solids. REG, Mrs. Gerry's and Select Foods are paying freight for their wastewater to Des Moines, IA. Looking towards Austin for more interested companies to take advantage of this project here in Albert Lea. Angie Eggum made a motion, seconded by Bobbie Jacobs to approve the joint letter with ALEDA and the Chamber Letter of Support for the proposed wind turbine project to operate this project. Motion carried.
- MN Auto Dealers Association (MADA) "California Clean Cars" Initiative: Shari will put representatives in touch with the Governmental Affairs Committee. Tabled to a later date.
- Code of Conduct: It was brought to Shari's attention that a chamber member made a comment on their personal face book page that was unkind. Discussion on a vague/brief mention in our mission statement could be made. Tricia and Mike Funk are willing to help with the wording.
- Strategic Plan – City/County Branding: Shari will update at a later time.
- Annual Meeting – Alternate Plan: Shari shared some very preliminary ideas on an alternate plan. A mini movie on the awards presentations, a box dinner or snacks and a real movie, keeping it all around two hours because of no use of restroom facilities. Mike Funk offered the use the athletic field, use of the big screen and large stadium seating area (weather & winter sports dependent).

**Adjourn:** Motion made by Tricia Dahl and seconded by Beau Hartman to adjourn the meeting.

The next Meeting will be Wednesday, August 26, 7:30 a.m. via Zoom.