



Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors Meeting

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

Zoom Meeting

MINUTES

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

Ex-Officios Present: Holly Karsjens, Phillip Johnson, Tom Jenson, Ellen Kehr, Megan Boeck

Absent: Kevin Miland, Mike Chandler, Angie Kolker

Welcome:

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

REPORTS

City of Albert Lea (Megan Boeck – City Planner):

- Shortage of Election Judges

Freeborn County (Tom Jensen):

- The ‘non-profit relief grant’ is available. Receiving lot of calls on who is eligible. Working with ALEDA on the rating scale to distribute \$820,000.
- The driver’s license testing is not available here in Albert Lea. Individuals must go to Rochester or Mankato for the testing.
- Finalizing the budget with no new monies or capital funds.
- November will bring in 2 or 3 new Board Members.

CVB (Holly Karsjens):

- New light pole banners are ordered. Holly (CVB/Main Street Project) worked with the Blue Zones (Ellen Kehr) on obtaining these banners which will go up around Labor Day.
- Working on new logo/signage for the new building.
- Holly has been in contact with other cities on how they will be handling the ‘trick-n-treating’ this year.
- Holly is re-vamping the brochure for businesses on the 5x7 tear off sheets of the city map.
- Miscellaneous videos have been/will be posted on Facebook regarding shop-buy-eat-enjoy Albert Lea.

ALEDA (Phillip Johnson):

- The ‘Cares Act Funding’ grant money (\$870,00) has been distributed to 130 businesses. Will now be helping with the non-profit grant monies.
- Blazing Star project is still moving forward. There have been soil issues to deal with.
- Two new businesses will be starting up in the strip mall by Walmart. An eatery and a clothing store.
- A new business is looking at coming to our area. It is between Albert Lea and another area.
- Working on remote work with Jefferson Forge, which works with the high school and community college students. The program is called ‘Night Movers’.

- The City, CVB, Chamber and ALEDA met with a St. Paul group of Somalians on locating to Albert Lea.
- On September 17 the Chamber, CVB and ALEDA will be assisting the City with the City Manager position interviews.

Worksite Wellness (Ellen Kehr):

- Suggested contacting Riverland Community College for election judges.
- On Social Media have been boosting the Grants for Non- Profits and Welcoming Week (Sept. 12 – 19) for new people into our Community.
- Halvorson and Hawthorne Schools have received two strider bikes for the Kindergarteners and First Graders. Sibley should receive theirs shortly.
- Working with Thorne Crest Senior Living Community on a ‘Aging Mastering’ Program for 15 seniors to go on-line and chat/zoom with others.
- 3 electric bikes are being gifted to seniors at Shady Oaks, which were received through a Grant the City applied for.
- We have 13 worksites that are tobacco free campuses.
- Redoing the ‘Walk-n-Roll’ maps for Sibley, which show safe routes to school.

Albert Lea Schools (Mike Funk):

- Purchased thermo scanners where students/staff walk through and it displays their temperature. School nurses are available to screen everyone that enters the schools.
- Have had early dismissals due to the extreme heat.

CONSENT ITEMS:

- The July 2020 Chamber Meeting Minutes were presented. Kim Nelson made a motion, seconded by Beau Hartman to approve the minutes. Motion carried.
- The July 2020 Chamber Financial Reports were presented. Tricia Dahl made a motion, seconded by Angie Eggum to approve the financials. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Biodigester and Biodiesel Projects: Letter of support was sent.
- Code of Conduct: We have entered a phrase on the application and is now on our website.
- Strategic Plan – City/County Branding: working with Holly on a new logo for signage on our front door.
- Annual Meeting – Alternate Plan: On-hold. Nothing has been done. Bobbie, Kim and Jeff have offered to help with reaching out for sponsorships.

NEW BUSINESS:

- August & September member invoices: September invoices were sent out a month early to recover financially.
- Ambassador CD – cashed in the CD that was due and placed in a temporary money market.
- County Nonprofit Grant: Shari has started working on the application.
- Member Benefits: Shari in taking classes to become certified as a Mental Health instructor for Adults and a First Aid Instructor.
- Board Seats – Recruitment: Riverland and Mayo will be submitting applications for individuals from their worksites. George suggested sending out an email to the Board members on whose terms are expiring as of September 31, 2020.

- Shari is working with Red Cross on blood drives looking for locations and dates to hold a drive, and with Erin at United Way on a Gear Drive to be held in September.
- If there are any Community events that the Chamber could be involved in let her know.

Adjourn: George adjourned the meeting.

The next Meeting will be Wednesday, September 23, 7:30 a.m. via Zoom.