



Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 24, 2021 – 7:30 a.m. Zoom Meeting

Present: Beau Hartman, Allen Hendriks, Bobbie Jacobs, Angie Eggum, Heather Lee, Ryan Langemeier, Jeff Woodside, Shari Jensen and Elaine Wallace

Welcome:

- Beau Hartman called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

Reports:

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

- Finalizing with Vortex Storage.
- Demo on Marketplace is underway.
- Working on a reduce/waiver liquor license to help the businesses.

Freeborn County (Tom Jensen): Not present

CVB (Holly Karsjens):

- Explore MN Annual Conference next week (via Zoom).
- Big Freeze: the fishing contest and donut sales were very successful despite the cold temps.
- Working on possibilities for 'Music on Fountain'.

ALEDA (Phillip Johnson):

- 3-4 businesses looking to expand.
- Worked with the County on the Small Business Relief Grant Funding. County is handling the check distribution (\$700,000+ funds).
- Vortex Storage: working on the land agreement.
- Lake Front Development Plan: Mini strategic plan on a marina to research on what can we do.

Committee Updates:

Chamber Foundation – Discussing Maintenance Fees

Ag Committee – Bobbi reported. Received nominations for 'Farm Family of the Year'. Will do a video on the presentation (same as last year).

Ambassadors – Shari reported that the Golf Outing date of July 19 at Wedgewood Cove has been verified.

Business & Education Collaborative – Shari updated on the Future Forward Program

Governmental Affairs – No update

Worksite Wellness – Ellen Kehr updated

Employee Resiliency – Sessions going very well with good attendance.

Blue Zones – Ellen Kehr gave update on their supporting community events.

Consent Items:

- January Chamber Meeting Minutes were presented. No questions or comments. Bobbie Jacobs made a motion to approve the January Minutes. Seconded by Jeff Woodside. Motion carried.
- January Chamber Financial Reports were presented. No questions or comments. Angie Eggum made a motion to approve the January financials. Seconded by Ryan Langemeier. Motion carried.

Chamber Financial/Membership Updates:

- Shari reported on the checking account balance being ahead of last years balance at this time last year.
- New members (10 new members Oct – Jan).
- Ambassador visits – on hold – we are doing check-ins.
- 2021 Letter to Members – letter went out Feb. 17.

Community Updates and Partnerships:

- Red Cross Blood Drive is Friday, Feb. 26, noon – 6 pm
- Continue working with Mayo on a marketing campaign for the COVID vaccine.
- Future Forward – partnering with School District 241 and the Business Ed Collaborative. Working with local businesses and the school regarding the workforce.
- Leadership Program – we are collaborating with Austin and Owatonna on promoting this program.
- Leadership Reads – partnering with Mary Holtorf and Austin Chamber of Commerce Book Club which begins in April with the book ‘Quiet’. They will meet on the third Thursday of every month (via Zoom) with Austin meeting at 7:15 am and Albert Lea at noon. Between Friends will be selling the books.

Conferences/Meetings to Note:

- MCCE Annual Meeting was Feb. 11. Shari reported that it was very informative, and lot of fundraising ideas were shared.

Adjourn: Beau Hartman adjourned the meeting. Seconded by Jeff Woodside.

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