



*Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce*

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, March 24, 2021 – 7:30 a.m. Zoom Meeting

Present: Beau Hartman, Allen Hendriks, Bobbie Jacobs, Rita Moyer, Heather Lee, Mike Chandler, Jeff Woodside, Kevin Miland, Mike Funk, Shari Jenson and Elaine Wallace

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**Welcome:**

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

**Reports:**

**City of Albert Lea (Ian Rigg, City Manager): Not present**

**Freeborn County (Tom Jensen):**

- Opening the Court House in all areas on April 1.
- Bridge Avenue construction work will begin on March 29.
- Freeborn County Fair Board will know more mid-April about the possibility of the Fair.
- Federal Bill was approved releasing money (5.96 million) which will benefit everybody that are in some form of a business. Will know in 30 days how it can be distributed.

**CVB (Holly Karsjens):**

- Working on a Community Calendar that will be shared externally on websites listing meetings and downtown events.
- Golden Egg Hunt will be held on April 3 promoting to shop and eat locally.
- Working on fundraising with a SE Realtors Group which will be a grant program for downtown businesses.

**ALEDA (Phillip Johnson):**

- Continue working on the Vortex Storage project.
- Working on getting someone in the coffee shop space on Bridge Avenue.
- Two small businesses (convenient stores) coming to Clarks Grove and Hayward.
- Solar Project Survey was sent out with the results being published mid-April.
- Lakefront Development discussions are being held bi-monthly.

**Committee Updates:**

Chamber Foundation – Discussing Maintenance Fees

Ag Committee – ‘Farm Family of the Year’ will be announced Friday.

Ambassadors – Did a visit to Wintergreen.

Business & Education Collaborative – No update

Governmental Affairs – No update

Worksite Wellness – No update

Community Resiliency – Sessions going very well with good attendance.

AL Schools – Mike Funk reported as of March 22 all students are back 4 days a week.

**Consent Items:**

- February Chamber Meeting Minutes were presented. No questions or comments. Rita Moyer made a motion to approve the February Minutes. Seconded by Bobbie Jacobs. Motion carried.
- February Chamber Financial Reports were presented. No questions or comments. Kevin Miland made a motion to approve the February financials. Seconded by Jeff Woodside. 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 (12 new members Oct – Feb).
- Ambassador visits – continue with check-ins.
- New bookkeeper will begin April 1.

**Community Updates and Partnerships:**

- Red Cross Blood Drive is Friday, April 30, noon – 6 p.m.
- Continue marketing campaign for the COVID vaccine.
- 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 a.m. and Albert Lea at noon.

**Conferences/Meetings to Note:**

- Strategic Planning (with City, County, ALEDA, CVB/Main Street) – Shari reported.
- Lakefront Development (with City, County, ALEDA, CVB/Main Street) – Shari reported. Discussions are being held on moving the Skateboard Park to Hayek Park making room for a possible snack shake at the former skateboard park location. Also discussed placing a marina at Fountain Lake Park.

**Other/New Business:**

- Propose new meeting agenda/format – discussed having City and County reporting monthly and ALEDA and CVB/Main Street reporting quarterly, which will leave more time for the Board Members to discuss their matters/concerns.
- Future of in person/virtual meetings – stay with virtual meetings for now.

**Adjourn:** Kevin Miland made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mike Funk.

The next Meeting will be Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 a.m. via Zoom.