



Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 25, 2021 – 7:30 a.m. Zoom Meeting

Present: Allen Hendriks, Ryan Langemeier, Mike Chandler, Mike Funk, Rita Moyer, Beau Hartman, Shari Jensen and Geri Jensen

Absent:, George Gonzalez, Bobbie Jacobs, Heather Lee, Angie Eggum, Jeff Woodside, Kevin Miland

Welcome:

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

Consent Items:

- July Chamber Meeting Minutes were presented. No questions or comments. Ryan Langemeier made a motion to approve the July Minutes. Seconded by Mike Funk. Motion carried.
- July Chamber Financial Reports were presented. No questions or comments. Beau Hartman made a motion to approve the July financials. Seconded by Ryan Langemeier. Motion carried. Discussion on Chamber bucks about the expiration on them. There is no expiration on them. Might need to look into a different program if the computer goes down.

Member Visits:

- August 5th, Shari met with **Diamond Jo's** regarding their membership. We had a great discussion about Chamber benefits, and the biggest challenge they have right now, which is position vacancies. We discussed the possibility of a Job Fair, at their location, open to other businesses. They seemed interested in continuing their membership but needed to run it up the chain.
- August 16th, Shari met with Josh, the manager at **Bayview Funeral Home**. She had seen him the week prior, and he requested a meeting, to discuss opportunities to get more involved with the Chamber. We discussed the possibility of him becoming a Chamber Board member, which he is very interested in. Immediately following the meeting, Shari popped in on Beau, to tell him about the meeting and the possibility of him talking with Josh and hopefully, nominating him to the Board.
- August 17th, Geri, and Shari dropped off our school supply donations to the Salvation Army, visited **The Funky Zebras**, **Shoe Sensation**, and **Maurice's**.

Committee Updates were included in the Chamber Updates for the Month of August packet that Shari sent out, prior to the meeting.

Old Business:

- **Annual Meeting** – Shari wanted to bring it to the Board’s attention that, August 17th, she attended the Healthcare Collaborative Zoom meeting. The bulk of that meeting was, once again, centered around COVID. It was stated that we are experiencing a serious uptick in cases. And, unfortunately, they expect it to continue and are anticipating a peak in September and said it will not be a surprise if folks end up working from home again, over the winter months. – Shari asked whether or not we should plan to do our 3rd Grade Farm Tours and our Annual Meeting; it was the consensus of that group that we not hold them in person.
- Shari wanted to bring it to the Board's attention with COVID that the Board might need to cancel the Annual Meeting. Shari did talk to Tina at Wedgewood Cove and we can cancel up to one week in advance. Shari got a sponsor to donate the desserts who is very excited to be able to do this, it's a great opportunity for her so.
- Allen mentioned to contact some of the regulars, to see if they plan of attending if we did continue to hold it or not. Staff will make calls and Shari will then discuss it with the Executive Committee at the beginning of September. The Executive Committee will vote on a plan for the Annual Meeting, during their September meeting.

New Business:

- **3rd Grade Farm Tours** – The Ag Committee met and discussed 3rd Grade Farm Tours. Last year, we weren’t able to do them because of COVID; this year, the Committee would like to have them. In light of the recent surge in COVID cases and, again, what Shari learned through the Healthcare Collaborative meeting, she asked Geri to reach out again to the Ag Committee, to inform them of this and find out if they still wanted to move forward. Their response was – “they didn't want to take this away from the kiddos.” Shari understands the kiddos look forward to this. She would be the last person ever want to hurt a child. That's not what this is about. This is about their safety. She is not fully in support of doing this but will gladly do whatever the Board thinks is best.
- Geri reached out to the schools, and they said ‘yes’ as of right know. Mike Funk stated that he approved the elementary schools to participate in the tours. We had also heard back from the farmers and, as of this meeting, they all said yes on the tours. The decision was made to keep pushing forward until we are told we must cancel the tours.
- Tours are currently scheduled for Wednesday, September 29th, and Thursday, the 30th. Shari requested a vote on whether or not to do this; she preferred it be a Board decision. Mike Funk made the motion to approve hosting the tours; seconded by Rita Moyer. Motioned carried.
- **Chamber Board Member Terms Expiring** - We have George Gonzales, Kevin Miland and Mike Funk have terms expiring 9/30/21. Mike Funk asked to stay on an additional year. Allen made a motion to extend Mike Funk term to 9/30/22. Seconded by Beau Hartman. Motion carried.
- **Chamber Foundation** also has terms expiring for 4 members of that board on 9/30/21. This will be discussed further in the Executive Committee meeting in September.
- Shari presented the **2021-2022 Draft Budget** – Shari found that there hasn’t been a dues increase since 2014; so, she also sent everyone the annual dues structure to include a spreadsheet of percentage increases, in case the Board would like to implement an increase in the coming year. Mike Funk suggested that Shari look this over and come back to the Board with her recommendation in September; it can be voted on at that time. Mike Funk also noted that proposed salary increases on the budget. He proposed that those are

probably separate discussions rather than just approving the budget and doing the increases. He asked that everyone really take a look at this to see if they appear in agreement on it and any other changes.

Adjourn: Motion by Mike Funk to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Rita Moyer