



Albert Lea-Freeborn County Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 24, 2021 – 7:30 a.m. – Freeborn Mower Cooperative

Present in Person: Ryan Langemeier, Allen Hendriks, Mike Chandler, Mike Funk, Angie Eggum, Kevin Miliand, Jeff Woodside, Shari Jenson

Present via Phone: Rita Moyer, Heather Lee

Absent: Bobbie Jacobs, Beau Hartman

Welcome:

- Mike Chandler called the meeting to order at 7:38 a.m.

Reports:

City of Albert Lea (Ian Rigg, City Manager) Not present/No report

Freeborn County (Tom Jensen): Not present/No report

Chamber Updates:

Everyone received the Chamber Updates for November, via email. A hard copy was also given to everyone present for the meeting. Shari briefly went through and briefly highlighted a few things:

- Presentations for the Shell Rock River Watershed District
- Programs and plans for Dementia Friendly Freeborn County – Dementia Champions Training is coming up in November two Ambassadors (Allen and Bobbie) have expressed interest in the training. This is another opportunity for us to educate businesses on how to handle certain mental health situations that may arise.
- Shari mentioned Chamber Check-in meetings that have been held. Will share more later in the meeting.
- Dates and times are given for the next Social Media Breakfast, Business After Hours, Ca\$h Mob, Leadership Reads Book Club
- Chamber Committee Meeting dates and times are noted. Minutes from meetings have been shared. If Board members would like any additional information on any of the meetings they are welcome to contact Shari.

Consent Items:

- October 2021 Meeting **Minutes** – Mike Funk motioned to approve; Jeff Woodside seconded; all in favor, motion passed
- October 2021 **Financial** Reports – Mike Funk asked Shari if there were any items to note. Shari said that it appears that some October invoices and bills may have been lost in the mail, so numbers may seem slightly off. Shari also pointed out that the Riverland invoices for the Leadership Program held in 2019-2020 have been paid to Riverland. Since accurate invoices were never received, it was agreed that the Chamber would pay \$500 per quarter and Riverland would consider that debt cleared. (\$1,000 shows as paid in October; \$500 will show paid in November.) – Angie

Eggum motioned to approve the financials; Kevin Miland seconded; all in favor, motion passed

Old Business

- **Board members/Nominees** – Josh Fossum of Bayview applied for Board membership. His application was distributed to everyone present and emailed to those on the call. Mike Funk voted to approve; Allen Hendriks seconded; all in favor, motion carried.
- Mike Chandler asked that we nominate and vote for **Second Chair** on Executive Committee. Mike Funk nominated Allen Hendriks; Allen was in agreement; Ryan Langemeier seconded; all in favor, motion passed.
- **Annual Meeting/Presentation update** – Shari and Geri have been working on the plan for Annual Meeting presentation. Shari prepared a sponsorship request letter and flyer, to send out to Chamber members, requesting funds in support of the video presentation and also an annual report and new membership brochure. Mike Chandler asked if Shari knew what the costs would be. Shari said the video would cost anywhere between \$500 and \$1,500. Shari did not have quotes on the other items yet but knows they can be costly. – Everyone present was given the letter and flyer for review and feedback. It was agreed that it can be sent.
- The **December meeting** will be a 'Holdiay' meeting and will be held at The Outlet on December 15th. The Ambassadors have been invited to attend, in place of their regular meeting, so that we can recognize Ambassador of the Year. Ellen Kehr will also be invited, so that she can be recognized as Volunteer of the Year. – Geri has ordered plaques.

Advocacy

Shari has been doing Chamber Check-in meetings and phone calls, to discuss manpower, or any other challenges businesses may currently be experiencing. Most importantly, to find out how the Chamber can best serve them. Following are the businesses that Shari met with, since the last Board meeting:

Home Depot.

Albert Lea Select Foods.

Mrs. Gerry's.

Thorne Crest

ServPro

Express

Ventura Foods

Walmart

- **Jobs** – Shari will be meeting with Val Kvale, Express, and Manpower, to come up with community-wide, wage and benefits survey(s) to get out to employers. The hope is to gather as much information as possible and widely share the information, in hopes that it will benefit the masses. – There was discussion on what has and hasn't worked at Albert Lea Select Foods. Allen had seen a commercial and asked Jeff about it.
- **Housing** – Shari had no updates or information to share. She is always open to suggestions on this front.
- **Childcare** – During Shari's meeting with Kevin and Chad Vogt, at Mrs. Gerry's, she learned that they are interested in putting together a joint program, with other organizations, similar to what they put together for healthcare. Shari had talked with Beau about this and he suggested we bring this to the Board and do all we can to make this happen. – Shari will push forward with this and keep the Board updated.
- **Jobs/Education** – Shari reminded everyone about the FutureForward program. Shari also stated her intention to ask the Board to approve making our 10 scholarships

available to students attending Riverland, only. Shari has also spoken to Jeff (Select Foods) and Ryan (Riverland), regarding expanding the scholarship program; ideally, a program similar to that offered by the Hormel Foundation to Austin students. Shari is scheduled to meet with Janelle Koepke (Riverland) on December 1st, to further discussions.

Adjourn: Motion by Angie Eggum to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Kevin Miland; meeting adjourned at 8:33