

**Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce**  
**Board of Directors Minutes – May 28, 2021 7:30am**  
**Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce Boardroom/Virtual Zoom**

**PRESENT:** Leslie Blake, Scott Block, Gary Bonick, Stacy Brown, Dawn Gilman, Matt Horist, Suha Hossain, Jennifer Johnson, Randy Leggee, Doug McAllister, Scott McKeever, Mary Miller, Ken Pringle, Beth Repta, Catie Schmit, Randy Smith, Tim Urban, Mike Wheeland, and staff members Bill Eich, Donna Sather, Nick Kubiak, Wendy Pratola, Lisa McLaughlin, and guest Haig Haleblian.

**ABSENT:** Trent Gordon, Kelly Roewer, Heather Maieritsch

**CALL TO ORDER:** Gary Bonick called the meeting to order at 7:31 AM

**CITY OF CRYSTAL LAKE/MAYORS REPORT:** Haig Haleblian reported that the city is working on an outdoor dining grant which would be available to area restaurants to apply for to help pay for modifications to property and additional tables, chairs, heaters, and other supplies to have permanent outdoor dining solutions. The city also approved Brinks Plaza for outdoor dining as well as another area in the downtown retail as well as added picnic tables to depot park in the center of downtown. The construction project at Main and Congress will be completed in two weeks. The project on McHenry Avenue and Route 14 will also be completed in two weeks and will primarily be done at night. The city had a great time celebrating our hometown American Idol contestant, Grace Kinsler. The producers of the show were very complimentary of our town. Development continues to grow in Crystal Lake. There are development plans that have been presented to the city to possibly turn Railroad St. into a promenade, and to create multi-family housing on either Crystal Lake Avenue and Walkup or the Ormsby property.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Motion to accept by Mike Wheeland, seconded by Dawn Gilman, and motion carried.

**DIVISION REPORTS:** Jennifer Johnson reported that the Ambassadors met and continued their discussion on structure. They will be working on finalizing that structure and seeking new candidates to join the Ambassadors. Kathy Powell is retiring and will be granted Emeritus Status. The Gems Luncheon is coming up next week. Ambassador Rebecca Heisler was named a Woman of Distinction and will be honored June 30. July 22 the Annual Dinner will be held at the Dole.

**FINANCE:** Mary Reported on the finances. The Chamber cash position is strong due to the PPP loan. Our Statement of Activities looks good as well because the Chamber has done a good job managing the expenses. The Chamber is only \$1100 off from Budget. The finance committee recommends a change to the Finance Policy that would allow for the budget to be reviewed as needed and changed by vote of the board. Motion to change the policy by Mike Wheeland and Seconded by Stacy Brown. Motion carried. Mary presented the proposed budget to the Board and the Board will have 30 days to review the proposed budget. Motion to accept Financials by Randy Smith, seconded by Ken Pringle and motion carried.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Lisa McLaughlin reported that we have 13 new members, 3 former members that rejoined and 2 reinstate members. We have 6 dropped members with a retention rate of 79.78%. New members are as follows: Mobile Therapy Centers of America, Weather Wise Heating and Cooling, Joe and Dough food truck, Moontime Smokin' Que, Custom Promotions, Inc. Pure Family Healthcare, Springs at Three Oaks, Kids in Need of McHenry County, Antojitos Mexicanos La Fonda, Stix and Noodles Food Truck, Northwestern Sunrooms, PP&R Enterprises, Kimpowerment Studios. Rejoins are Crystal Lake Gymnastics Training Center, KRV Legal, and Play it Again Sports. Reinstated members are Lee's Martial Arts and Merrill Lynch Global Management. It was a great month. Randy complimented the Chamber staff on their combined efforts. Motion to accept membership by Stacy Brown, seconded by Randy Smith and motion carried.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Please make the calls on the Board call list and engage our members and thank them for their membership. If you feel like the pandemic is winding down like Gary does, please encourage people to start getting involved. The Board needs to step up and start attending more ribbon cuttings, getting involved in committees, and being present at more events. Please put the events on your calendar and encourage fellow members to attend. Please recommend the Maximize your Membership program also, it is a great tool. Lisa recommends all Board members and leadership tables to attend. Gary would like to see one person assigned from each group attend a MYM each month.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Bill Eich reported that we are in the planning stages for a lot of events. We are almost to the bridge phase and people are starting to be more confident. We have a number of mixers, ribbon cuttings, and special events coming up in June and July. Kudos to Donna for running a well organized and well attended EXPO event. Stacy noted that it was a really good event for her. We were pleased that the bridge phase allowed us the ability to have the event. We have GEMS coming up June 2, the Golf Outing June 21, a ground breaking ceremony for Mercyhealth June 16, WEW Auction June 1, and many more. Please join us for some of these events if you can.

**ITEMS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION:** Matt Horist and the nomination committee presented the following candidates for Board of Directors positions:

Josh Howell from Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation endorsed by Matt Horist

Eric Beier from First Institute endorsed by Randy Leggee

Ben Volling from State Farm Insurance endorsed by Dawn Gilman

Motion to accept the nominations and present them to the membership for election by Scott McKeever, seconded by Randy Smith and motion carried. The Election will take place the first week of June by emailed ballots. The changes to the executive team will be sent out to email

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** Donna thanked everyone who came out and helped with the EXPO. We have a full page of events again, finally! There is one event not listed on the sheet, it is a ribbon cutting and mixer for the YMCA. The cutting is for their new path through the woods. We have many ribbon cuttings coming up. The members can register for them online which is a real time saver. Please mention that to the members when you reach out to them. We have no mixers scheduled for July but some for August. We need to reschedule a few from last year yet also. Gary reminded the Board again to please attend the events.

**HEARD AROUND TOWN:** Nick reported that the Regal Theater has opened. Leslie mentioned that Big Brothers Big Sisters is doing Bags for Kids at the BBBS facility and also bowling vouchers in June. Gary mentioned that the Friday afternoon club is meeting at Crystal Lake Brewing 4pm today. Gary really liked the outdoor EXPO. Everyone is excited for the parade. Registration ends today. The WEW auction registration is ending at 10am today. Concerts at the beach start next Tuesday. Dole is having live music and farmers markets weekly also.

**ADJOURN:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:40am on a motion by Randy Smith and Seconded by Ken Pringle. Motion passed. Next Meeting will be June 25, 2021 at 7:30am.