



Smithville Chamber of Commerce
February Board Meeting (Weather Postponed)
Wednesday March 6, 2019
Chamber of Commerce Office

Meeting called to order by President Rick Gath at 11:48 am.

Attendees were Carol Noecker, Rick Gath, Starla Janes, David Cooper, Dave Marsh, Dennis Brewer, Pam Davis, Kelly Busch, and Scott Pearson.

Meeting Minutes

The January 2019 board meeting minutes were discussed. A name correction of "Angela" instead of "Angel" Gillen was noted.

Starla moved to approve the amended minutes, Dave seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

The January 2019 Treasurer's Report was presented for approval by Treasurer Dave Marsh.

There were points of discussion..

1. Dave got updated statements from the banks, we actually had about \$600 in interest last year from the CDs we own which is about a 1% return.
2. Regarding membership dues – about 30 members have yet to pay this year. Carol will resend invoices. .

Dennis moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved, Starla seconded. The motion passed.

Executive Director Report – Carol Noecker

New members are Bank of Gower, Mo. Farm Bureau Insurance – Zane Myers Agency, Molly Beale Photography, and Wilkin Custom Finishes.

Membership meeting sponsorship is still needed. Platte Clay changed their date from April to June, but several months remain unsponsored. David mentioned that he and Angela Gillen may co-sponsor a member meeting but need to discuss further.

The following membership meetings are sponsored:

March – Clay County Commission

June – Platte Clay Electric Cooperative

September – Citizens Bank and Trust

November – Security Bank (Veterans Salute)

There was a positive response from the Feb. meeting sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce with the chili cook off. Dennis asked if anyone has heard members mention a desire for the Chamber to provide more sponsorship instead of requesting members to sponsor the meetings. The question was raised if there is any negative consequence to the Chamber's meeting sponsorship if it were to continue. No negative feedback was observed.

Lia Jennings had mentioned the possibility of producing a Chamber of Commerce Cookbook as a fundraiser. Carol has done some preliminary research, it seems like a viable option to be both profitable and a fun way to promote the Chamber and its members. Discussion followed that was in favor of the idea pending more details. Carol will research more to determine cost and profit estimates.

Community awards nominations are due March 29th. Carol requested we move the next board meeting back one week to April 3rd in order to discuss the nominations. It was agreed to move the meeting to April 3rd so an additional meeting is not required.

Carol had a friend request to borrow or rent the Chamber's dance floor. There was discussion about liability concerns if it was rented. It was decided to loan the floor to her friend to avoid any liability, but a waiver of liability would be beneficial. Scott volunteered to provide a waiver of liability form for them to sign when they pick up the floor.

Carol went to the Missouri Mainstreet Program with Smithville city employees. The meeting was beneficial. Better communication among all downtown businesses would help move our projects forward.

Carol asked about interest in a possible job fair again this year, especially if it is held on a Saturday. After requesting interested participants to respond, only 5 people have shown interest so far. There may be more businesses interested if not held on a Saturday. Discussion followed about who the job fair benefited the most when there was such limited attendance last year, the business owners or the students at the school hosting it? The general consensus of the board is that we are happy to support the school and it's students through work interviews, etc., but the job fair may not be a mutually beneficial way to help students and businesses.

Carol gave an update on the Awards Banquet plans. She presented an event budget worksheet based on a \$5000 budget. The 6 platinum sponsorships are already spoken for and the event planning is going well and on track.

Outreach Specialist – Kelly Busch

Due to inclement weather, it has been difficult for Kelly to make home visits. She was able to make 10 visits in February. New welcome program members will be Farm Bureau Insurance – Zane Myers and Show Me Logos. Thorny Creek has dropped off for now, she will consider participating again when the weather and business improves.

EDC Update – Scott Pearson

Scott reported that the EDC is moving from monthly to quarterly meetings.

There were two main items of discussion:

1. Tourism page – Scott will be meeting with Nikki Lee, Assistant City Administrator to discuss further. There is an existing tourism page for the County already, the main focus would be on having a cost effective tourism page for the City of Smithville.
2. The city was asked to collect plastic recyclables, a recycling drop off location is needed, the board does not think it would be a good idea to have behind chamber office.

Old Business:

Building Improvement Committee Report – Dennis presented two drawings he made of the Chamber building front elevation with potential improvements as well as an option for signage. Both frontage options, and the benefits and drawbacks of signage options were discussed. As both frontage options were well received, it was decided to get bids for both front elevations. Dennis will contact Kalin Construction and Dusty Hawkins to get bids.

The Security Bank events checking account signature authority was changed at the last board meeting so that Carol and Starla were given signature authority. However, removing Shari Rodgers and Kelley Stumph's signature authority was not discussed. Treasurer Dave Marsh also needs to have signature authority on the account.

David moved to remove signature authority for Shari Rodgers and Kelley Stumph on the Security Bank events checking account while granting additional signature authority to Dave Marsh. Dennis seconded the motion, the motion passed.

New Business:

A policy for savings options for Chamber funds was discussed as David brought up the rates of returns on our CDs. After discussing the matter, it was decided that as CDs mature, bids will be taken from Chamber members who wish to submit a bid for holding Chamber funds in CDs. David asked the board if it was a conflict of interest for a board member to submit a bid. It was decided it is not a conflict of interest, as it will be a board decision on which CD to purchase that is in the best interest of our membership. Treasurer Dave Marsh will put together a spreadsheet detailing the CDs currently held and when they will come due.

Rebecca Mulsford asked if the Boy Scouts could sell popcorn at the next Chamber Membership Meeting as they have a lot left over. It was decided they could set up a table and offer it for sale.

There being no further business, Rick Gath adjourned the meeting at 1:00.