

Neligh Chamber of Commerce Monthly Meeting

April 13, 2021. Noon - Chamber Office

Present: Jill, Steve, Jennifer, Rich, Wade, Diane

Absent: Klint, Lianne, Traci

Other Guests: Tammy Struebing, Lauren, Bri

Meeting called to order at 12:09 PM

Approval of March Bills: **Motion: Rich, 2nd: Diane**

Approval of March Minutes: **Motion: Diane, 2nd: Wade**

New Business:

1. Nebraska Strong scavenger hunt proposal: After a long discussion, it was decided that with Nebraska Strong also asking Chamber Businesses for donations, the Chamber didn't feel it would be fair to use Chamber Business's money twice to do donations.
2. Facebook Admin Discussion: Chamber Director, Bri O'Brien, requested permission to be made an admin on the Chamber Facebook pages. After careful thought and consideration, the board thought that her character was trustworthy enough to make her an admin on the Chamber Facebook pages. At first it was discussed to do this on a 90-day trail. However, after further discussion it was decided to just allow her to be a Facebook Admin. A motion was made to allow Bri to be an admin for all of the Chamber Facebook Pages (Neligh Chamber of Commerce and Antelope County Ag and Home Expo). **Motion- Steve, 2nd: Wade, Motion carried**
3. Neligh's 150th celebration is coming up in 2023: It was brought up to discuss what role the Chamber will play in helping plan the 150th Celebration of Neligh. It was decided that this is a City event, and the chamber will help but will not be heading the planning.
4. Neligh Shred Day – April 20, 11 AM- 1 PM.
5. Chamber Big Bucks running low: Our previous business that printed and created the Chamber Big Bucks went out of business. Wade (Antelope County News and Pitzer Digital) is looking into trying to find a way to make them here in town. It was also discussed to make the Big Bucks larger, and they need to have the magnetic ink to make it easier for businesses to use. More information will be available at the next meeting.
6. Chamber Director Report: O'Brien is attending an economic development course called Heartland during April. She will be in class on April 14 and 15, and 21 & 22 from 8 AM-12:30 PM. RK Creations is also having their ribbon cutting on April 23 at 2 PM in Royal. The Scholarship committee met and finalized the scholarship application. This application was sent to the high school for seniors to fill out and submit back to the Chamber Office. O'Brien also asked the Chamber if they would be interested in adding a one-year free membership to the Neligh Economic Development Office Video Entrepreneur Contest winning package. The Chamber saw this as a great opportunity to help support a possible new business and welcome them into the business community. A motion was made to have 1-year free membership be a

part of the Entrepreneur Video Contest package. **Motion: Steve, Second: Rich. Motion Carried**
Last, O'Brien has cut back and been trying to do more ED side to help balance out on hours.
Currently, she is sitting at 316/1000 hours for the contracted hours. A motion was made to
approve of the Chamber Director's Report. **Motion: Steve, 2nd: Wade, Motion carried**

7. **ED Report:** Lauren started off by saying that the Digital Façade Grants are still available.
Currently, there are a few businesses that have applied and will be waiting for approval. If you
know of any business that may want to increase their digital footprint (website, new POS
system, social media ads, professional photography for their websites, and so much more),
please share this program with them!

On March 23, the ED Office hosted a Career Fair. A few schools had backed out the day before,
but overall, this event went well. For the Job Fair Portion in the afternoon, there were 25
businesses there with over 75 possible positions available. However, turnout on the job seeker
side was low. Next year, plans are being made to try to help strengthen this event. The ED Office
is also looking to make some relationships with people such as DHHS to host classes that can
teach people about resume building and how to prepare for an interview.

Rainbow fountain has been cleaned up and the plan is to possibly begin planting the new garden
by May 14. On April 1, the Neligh ED Office launched a project they've been working on for a
while. This project is an Entrepreneur Video Contest. This contest is open until June 30 and the
winner will receive an amazing incentive package that will show the support they have of our
wonderful community. Clearwater has been working on creating more housing in their
community. They are doing this by applying for the housing trust fund grant, and they have
started to form a community housing group. Lastly, Lauren will be attending Leadership
Nebraska starting in June and going until February. Classes will be every Wednesday, Thursday,
and Friday.

Committee Reports:

1. **Promotions:** The next upcoming promotion is the Mother of the Year Promotion. Individuals will
have a chance to nominate their mom for Mother of the Year by writing a short letter saying
why they believe she should be. The winners of the categories (a kids and big kids category) will
receive a hanging flower basket and Chamber Big Bucks! Other nominations will receive a flower
and a cookie form the Chamber. All of this will be handed out on the first Tuesday of May.
2. **Business After Hours:** Business After Hours at the Antelope County News Office from 5 PM – 7
PM on this upcoming Thursday.

Adjourn: **1:01 PM Motion: Steve, 2nd: Jill**

Minutes Reviewed and Approved by Jill Kallhoff, President Date: 05/03/21