

Neligh Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting

August 11, 2020. Noon Chamber Office

Present: Steve, Rich, Jill, Ben, Matt, Jaryd

Absent: Traci, Diane, Jennifer

Other Guests: Lauren, Tammy, Lydia, Bri (Zoom)

Meeting called to order at 12:05 PM

Approval of July Minutes: **Motion- Matt, 2nd- Rich, Motion Passed**

Approval of July Bills: **Motion- Jill, 2nd- Ben, Motion Passed**

Old Business:

1. The Chamber discussed the idea of running promotions to help the businesses with COVID recovery. This is tabled until next month and will continue to be evaluated each month depending on what is happening with COVID.
2. **Teachers Breakfast:** This will be happening on Thursday, August 13th at 8 am. The Chamber will be providing fruit, donuts, coffee, and juice. Some Chamber Businesses have also put together a “goodie bag” for the teachers to show their appreciation for all that the teachers do.

New Business: (12:25)

1. **Chamber director report:** The idea of a Chamber Scholarship was brought up. It was decided to add a note with dues that if businesses would like to donate an amount of their choice specifically to the Chamber Scholarship each year, that it will be an option and up to their discretion on what they are able to provide. Lydia and Bri worked to update the Chamber Website. They cleaned up the website by replacing old ads from 2019 to new event ads, and they also added a shop local button to the page. This button will allow anyone to click on the button for a shop and it will take them directly to the business’s website. Covid-19 proved this is a much-needed time to start providing online shopping options.

An entrepreneur program is in the process of being developed. This would be a partnership with the chamber to help promote entrepreneurship in the community. It will start at the elementary level with workshops. There will be 4 workshop days that will help to instill the characteristics and thinking of an entrepreneur into the children. In order to do these workshops, there is a price of \$6 per child. The hope is to be able to have the Chamber sponsor the children, or possibly have a business sponsor a child so that it can be free to them to participate. From this point, down the road the hope is to be able to expand to

Middle School, the High School, and so on. We are working with the Nebraska Extension office, and this is still in the developing stages. Current Chamber hours are at 819/1040.

2. **ED Report:** Today, August 11th, is Lydia's last day. She was an intern with the Nebraska Community Foundation this summer. Lydia helped in our office with multiple projects including updating the strategic plan, certified local government, creating flyers to promote Neligh, helping to update the Chamber website, and many more. Lydia has a very strong work ethic. She is a valuable asset to the team and will be greatly missed.

There is still funding in the Emergency Grant funding for Covid. The deadline for this grant is September 1. We are encouraging any businesses that have been affected by Covid to apply. After this, the DTR will officially be wrapping up.

Electric Incentive is being discussed at tonight's Council Meeting. This incentive will allow new businesses to have 10% off their electric for the first year and 5% off the second year. Rainbow Fountain was cleaned up by a couple of volunteers who put in a tremendous amount of effort.

Finally, Smeal Fire Apparatus is closing. The office has been working to try to find anyways to help the employees that they can. This is currently the ED Office's main focus. If any businesses are in need of great workers, contact the office to let us get you in touch with these employees.

Committee Reports:

3. **Membership:** Just an update that Dollar General has not paid their dues. After multiple times of contacting and nothing coming from it, we believe they no longer are wanting to be members. They are being removed from the Big Bucks list.
4. **Expo:** The 2021 Expo dates are March 2-3. Sly's has agreed to do the kitchen at the expo again this upcoming year. Possible speakers for the expo have been contacted, and Ad pricing information is being gathered to try to fit into the Chamber budget.
5. **BBQ:** 538 people attended the BBQ. The Chamber had decided to only get half as much in food this year for the BBQ. We ended up making eighty cents a plate. We had a great turnout for Volunteers, with a total of 40 people helping. It was a lighter event this year, but because of planning it was a successful one.
6. **Promotions:** No Discussion
7. **Annual Meeting:** No Discussion
8. **Business After Hours:** Will be at Sly's on Thursday, August 13th. It will start at 4:30 pm and end at 5:30pm. They will showcase their new cold press coffee by providing tasters of either French vanilla or caramel lattes.
9. **Holiday Parade of Lights:** No Discussion
10. **Annual Banquet:** It was decided that instead of hosting our traditional Annual Banquet this year, we will be recognizing members at Novemberfest.

11. Novemberfest: Currently there are 4 wineries lined up to be a part of Novemberfest, and we have one winery that is interested in coming. There is also one Brewery that has committed to being a part of the event, so we are currently still looking for at least 2 more Breweries. The Covid-19 situation is being taken into account and we will be monitoring and trying to plan accordingly.

Adjourn: **Motioned- Jill, 2nd- Rich, Motion Passed (12:47 PM)**

Minutes Reviewed and Approved by Jill Kallhoff, Treasurer Date: 8/19/2020