

Neligh Chamber of Commerce Monthly Meeting

February 8, 2022. Noon - Chamber Office

Present: Jill, Steve, Diane, Rich, Klint

Absent: FBLA Seat, Traci, Lianne, Wade

Other Guests: Keith Kube, Tammy Struebing, Lauren, Bri

Meeting called to order at 12:05 PM

Approval of January Bills: [Motion to approve January Bills](#). **Motion: Diane, 2nd: Rich**

Approval of January Minutes: [Motion to approve January Minutes](#). **Motion: Steve, 2nd: Rich, - Jill abstained**

New Business (12:10 PM):

1. **Speaker - Keith Kube for Legislature:** Keith Kube is running for State Legislature and presented his platform, goals, and background to the Chamber. After he spoke, there was a brief Q & A session before he graciously thanked the Chamber for his time and departed.
2. **Chamber Director Report:** Bri started by providing a list of upcoming things to note. This included the Expo on March 1 & 2 and the office being closed on March 4 due to overtime and Laruen at Leadership. The Annual Chamber Banquet is scheduled for March 26 at the Legion, and Shred Day will be April 20 from 9-10 am.

Our current membership renewal is at 75%. The committee information was sent out to all members with an invitation to join them, but there was minimal response. The hospital had also brought to our attention that the New Year's Baby may not arrive until March, so it was decided to change this promotion since by that time it won't be a "New Year's Baby". Now, the Chamber will be providing a gift basket or something else to the recipient of the Caring, Kind Award at AMH each year. Bri also had the opportunity to attend the Big Chill at Divots in Norfolk to try to gather information on an event similar to Novemberfest and find other potential vendors for our event.

The Chamber also received another generous donation for the Christmas Light fund of \$10,000. We are also waiting on the decisions made from a few other grants we applied to for the fund. Bri also worked to create a list of all events and promotions for the Chamber Board for a brief discussion, and finally, after a year of work, the Instagram connected! A thank you to Carrie Pitzer for assisting to make that happen!

The rest of the focus has been on assisting the city with a few other tasks (finishing City Spotlight, social media work, and flyer information) and Expo planning. The current director contracted hours are 112 out of 1000. A motion was made to approve the Chamber Director Report. **Motion: Steve, 2nd: Klint**

3. **ED Report:** Lauren reviewed the career and job fair that was held in January. The career fair was a success with 70 students attending, community partners coming to speak, and great feedback from those in attendance! New ideas for next year are already in the works which includes bringing the local businesses in to speak to the kids and possibly a panel for questions. The job fair part was not as successful. The businesses were there, but unfortunately, only 5 individuals showed up. With that being where all the advertising money was spent, it is under review to end that portion.

This past month, a few of our businesses were really spotlighted for their successes. Two River's Irrigation was one of the top thirty dealers in North America and Canada. Stealth Broadband received a \$1.234 million dollar grant to assist with their newest project. Antelope County Museum received a \$7,500 grant. All these wonderful achievements truly highlight our community!

Next week, Lauren will be attending the last session of Leadership Nebraska as well as her graduation. Next month, the Northeast Community College Career Fair will be on March 8. Lauren will be attending to represent the City of Neligh and show all the different jobs available in our area. If you have anything you would like to be displayed, please let me know. Lastly, Clearwater has released a new idea to host community awards. Community members can nominate outstanding organizations, businesses, and volunteers.

Old Business (12:30 PM):

1. **Warrior Rewards:** It was tabled at the October Meeting to revisit if the Chamber will donate to the Warrior Rewards program pending on the results of Novemberfest. After some discussion on both sides of the program, a motion was made to provide \$75 worth of \$5 Chamber Big Bucks to the Warrior Reward Program. **Motion: Diane, 2nd: Steve. Motion Passed.**
2. **Chamber Board Committees:** Chamber Board briefly reviewed what members are on each committee and decided to keep the committees the same again for this year.
 - Expo- Wade
 - Novemberfest – Steve
 - Parade of Lights – Diane & Rich
 - BBQ – Jill & Klint
 - Promotions – Traci
 - Annual Banquet – Lianne

Committee Reports (12:45 PM):

1. **Promotions:** Upcoming Promotions are the Mother's Day CoOp Ads and then Father of the Year.
2. **Business After Hours:** Two Rivers & Carquest hosted the last Business After Hours event. They had a wonderful turnout from their employees and customers. It was also discussed to change the Business After Hours events to quarterly or per business request.
3. **Expo Update:** All the details are set, flyers are printed, and currently there are only 9 booths left! Speakers for the event will be Al Dutcher, Traci Jacobsen, UNL Extension, and Pivot Bio. The Expo committee also had reached out and invited the schools in all the surrounding areas.
4. **Open Floor for Additional Discussion:** None

Adjourn: 12:55 PM, Motion: Rich, 2nd: Klint

Minutes Reviewed and Approved By: Rich Burgess, Secretary. Date: 2/15/22