

# Neligh Chamber of Commerce Monthly Meeting

January 11, 2022. Noon - Chamber Office

Present: Steve, Rich, Traci, Carson Whitesel (FBLA seat), Diane, Wade

Absent: Lianne, Jill, Klint

Other Guests: Aiden Kuester, Lisa Hanson, Tami Struebing, Lauren, Bri

**Meeting called to order at 12:05 PM**

Approval of December Chamber Director Report: A motion was made to approve the Chamber Director Report from the previous meeting since there was not quorum to pass it. **Motion: Wade, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich**

Approval of December Bills: A motion was made to approve the December Bills. **Motion: Diane, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich**

Approval of December Minutes: A motion was made to approve the December Minutes. **Motion: Rich, 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Wade – Traci abstain**

New Business:

1. Chamber Board Committees: The Board reviewed the possible committee options and decisions will be made at the next meeting.
2. Review and Approve 2022 Budget – The Chamber Board reviewed the proposed budget and made the decision to add the Chamber Scholarship funding as part of the annual budget each year. After the board reviewed the proposed 2022 budget, a motion was made for it to be approved. **Motion: Traci, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Diane**
3. Chamber Director Report: Bri gave a brief update on some of the upcoming events taking place. This included Library Pub Trivia at Sly's tonight starting at 7 pm, the Annual Banquet scheduled for March 26, and the Christmas Light Display take down on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

Bri also went over a brief holiday wrap up. During the holidays alone almost \$4,000 in Big Bucks was distrusted! This is a big success to know that much staid local for sure during the holiday season. The Great Elf Hunt ended this past month. 11 businesses participated, and the winners were drawn. (Chellie McElhaney -\$50, Jeri Hoffman - \$100, Tricia Beyer -\$150) Last, the Christmas light judging contest ended! Winners were Neligh Flower Shop, Gladis and Darrell Stecklberg, and Jeanetta and Edward Krick.

The Grinch fundraiser ended due to the frozen ground, but the Chamber raised \$1700 towards new Christmas Lights! Last month, the Chamber asked the City Council to consider using Lottery Funds to help us update our 30-year-old Christmas Light Display. It was decided to grant the chamber \$5000! Bri has also completed Grant requests to the Neligh Community Fund and Antelope County Visitors Committee as well for the Holiday Display, and we are currently still waiting on the results.

Bri also has sent out nomination form to all Chamber for 2021 Chamber Awards. If you haven't submitted yours, please do so as soon as possible. The membership invoices and brochures sent out last week and they included a letter of success from the 2021 year. Mostly, Bri has been busy with the budget work and preparing for the Expo. Currently, the Chamber hours are sitting at 30/ 1000. A motion was made to approve the Chamber Director Report. **Motion: Wade, 2<sup>ND</sup>: Rich**

4. ED Report: Lauren provided the Economic Development report, and she started off by talking about the Neligh Tourism App that was released in December! It is our on google play, can be downloaded from online, and will be available in the apple store soon. The idea for now is to focus on the historical side and hopefully one day expand to include Neligh businesses. In the idea of continued growth,

Neligh's Housing study grant was also completed and submitted last week, which kept the office busy! The city is also looking at a car charging station and is in the works to discover what it would take to add one.

The ED office has also been hard at work planning everything for the Career and Job Fair happening on January 27! For the Career Fair, Neligh-Oakdale, Summerland, and Elgin Public Schools will be there. After the presentations in the morning, the kids will be able to go out and do business tours to try to learn a bit more on what our community has to offer!

Lastly, Lauren will be attending Leadership in Lincoln this month. They will be very busy with the many meetings and plans made, of which includes sitting in on the current legislative session.

#### Committee Reports:

1. **Membership:** DB Construction had an open house and ribbon cutting on December 17, and Doug's Detailing joined! Membership brochures and invoices were sent out at for the 2022 year.
2. **Promotions:** The Christmas Lighting Contest was wrapped up on December 15, and the Great Elf Hunt ended on Dec. 21.
3. **Business After Hours:** January 28<sup>th</sup>, Carquest/Two Rivers will be hosting Business After Hours from 5-7 pm! They will also have their annual open house from 11 am-2 pm.
4. **Expo Update:** The Expo committee met last Friday and finalized the ad budget as well as the last plans for the expo. There will be four speakers at the event which include Al Dutcher, Neligh Flower Shop, UNL Extension, and Pivot Bio! The mailers and flyers are being designed. Currently, there are 30 out of the 54 booths sold.
5. **Open Floor for Additional Discussion:** None

**Adjourn: 12:50 pm Motion: Carson, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Wade**

**Minutes reviewed and approved by: Rich Burgess, Chamber Secretary. Date: 2/1/22**