

Neligh Chamber of Commerce Monthly/Annual Meeting

March 20, 2023. Noon - Chamber Office

Present: Laurie, FBLA, Jill, Rich, Steve, Klint, Diane via phone

Absent: Kelli, Traci

Other Guests: Lauren, Sara, Tammy

Meeting called to order at 12:05 PM

Approval of February Bills & Treasurer report: 1st Rich 2nd Steve

Approval of February Minutes: 1st Steve 2nd Laurie

New Business:

150 Celebration Chamber involvement Jill stated she wanted the 150 put on the agenda to encourage Chamber members to say yes when asked to volunteer with the 150 celebration. There will locations set up to sell shirts, koozies, and other goodies and encourages people to volunteer when asked.

Chamber Director Report Current hours 155. A lot of time and phones calls were spent on the expo. We were able to sell out of booths, there were few no shows, but they had paid for their spot. All speakers showed. There was a lot of talk about Johnson Solution's and how well he spoke even after his technology failed. There was roughly 210 registrations the first day at 110 registration the second day with an estimated of roughly 500 people counting registrations, vendors, volunteers, and people choosing not to register. A thank you to Steve, Rich, and Jill for helping with the expo.

During the same time as the expo, we were able to get the Christmas Light Display down. A huge thanks to FBLA, FFA, N-O bus driver, Steve, and the city for helping the lights down. The nativity scene continues to make statement and we will continue to watch weather and get those down when the trailer is available.

As director I have spoken and gathered, Cambridge and Milford Bylaws and am discussing with Norfolk. Many communities are looking at updating their bylaws. Lisa mentioned getting O'Neill's bylaws. On the ED side, the director continues to help support and apply for the housing grant. Continue 150 discussions and city flower displays.

Steve asked what kind of reaction we got from the expo. The director reported that the vendors she spoke to face to face stated they thought it was one of the better shows. Vendors in survey's noted that there was just a steady flow with a slower Wednesday afternoon but still sold more products or gained more clients than years past. For negative feedback, it was recommended to give a survey on what brings people to the expo or what would get them to come out. Steve motioned to accept Chamber report. 2nd Klint. Motion passed.

ED Report: Lauren reported on the Fund Investment Plan and Budget for the Rural Workforce Housing Grant that needs to be submitted March 23. Steve made a motion to approve the Fund Investment Plan and Budget to be included with housing grant application documentation. Second by Klint. All in favor. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Kelli-No Discussion

Expo: Laurie & Rich Follow Up Report

Promotions: Traci- Ladies Night Out May 3rd Agreed date. Lisa is taking charge of the Mother's Day Award. Lisa asked if we were doing a scholarship. It was decided the Chamber would and that the Sara would get Lisa the needed information.

BBQ: Jill & Klint No Discussion

Novemberfest: Steve- No Discussion

Annual Meeting: Sara No Discussion

Holiday Parade of Lights: FBLA No Discussion Sara reported the Chamber did not receive the Improvement Grant for lights, as the Antelope County Visitor Committee funding is low, but they encouraged us to apply in the later future when more funds become available. Lisa asked if we contacted the light company to put in a complaint about the number of missing light bulbs missing from the new light display. Director stated that she and Steve walked around and picked up a bunch that had blown off but can try to contact the company and put in the complaint. Rich stated there are a lot of extra bulbs we can use next year to replace the missing ones.

Annual Banquet: Sara, Traci, Jill, Lauren April 15, 2023 **RSVP: March 31** Director asked the board to send in nominations for the annual awards. A choice of brisket, chicken, shrimp, steak, and prime rib were given as dinner options. The board choose Prime Rib and Shrimp.

Adjourn: 12:37pm 1st. Klint 2nd Steve