

Neligh Chamber of Commerce Monthly Meeting

September 14, 2021. Noon - Chamber Office

Present: Jill, Rich, Stephanie, Steve, Traci, Lianne (12:13 PM)

Absent: Diane, Wade, Klint

Other Guests: Lisa, Carson Whitesel, Aiden Kester, Lauren, Bri

Meeting called to order at 12:03 PM

Approval of August Bills: **Motion: Steve, 2nd: Rich**

Approval of August Minutes: **Motion: Stephanie, 2nd: Steve, Traci Abstained**

Old Business:

1. Christmas Lights Display Discussion: The Chamber Board began discussing ways to start fundraising for the additions and changes to be made to the Christmas Lights Display. It was decided to make a committee that will brainstorm fundraisers as well as come up with the new display design.

New Business:

2. Warrior Rewards School Program: This is a program at NOPS where students can receive points in exchange for their positive behaviors. Throughout this program there are different incentives such as 5 points = a granola bar, 15 = fruit snacks, 50 points= water bottle, 100 points = a t-shirt. The school had asked that the Chamber participate by donating big bucks. The board decided to reach out and invite April Knust to come to the next meeting to answer any questions they may have. This was tabled until the next meeting.
3. BBQ Screen Repairs: After many years of use, the screens are falling apart and in great need of repairs. Summerland Public School's Industrial Arts program said that they believed they could repair the BBQ Screens. They will pick up, repair, and deliver the screen back to Neligh. It was mentioned that the screens should be replaced with a stronger wire than what was previously used. The motion was made to have Summerland Industrial Arts Program repair the screens where we would pay for the cost along with giving them a \$300 donation. **Motion: Rich, 2nd: Lianne, Motion Passed**
4. Chamber Director Report: Bri gave an update the past month. Congressman Adrian Smith came to Neligh, hosted by the Chamber, and was at the Library on August 18. It was a smaller group, but there was great discussion. Big thank you to the library for hosting. While prepping the office for updates, Bri found a hidden gem. Hiding in the

bottom of an old metal filing cabinet was a book that had original documentation for the Chamber dating back to 1913! It is believed that this is the start year! Previously, the chamber was called the Neligh Commercial Club, a men's only group. This may have been why it was so difficult to find the original date. With this find, the Chamber logo was updated one last time to display the Chambers established date. To celebrate our office updates, we will be hosting a Chamber Coffee/ Ribbon Cutting! The official date has not yet been set.

The Chamber had kept Lauren's old credit card around in case of an emergency, but a fraud charge went through, so it was decided to cancel the card. The chamber did not lose money for the fraud charge. The next Shred Day will be on Oct 20, 8:30—10:30am. This time is the City's turn to host. Lastly, Chamber Big Bucks are still in the process of being worked out. There were a few more details that had to be fixed, but hopefully they will be sent to print soon! Her current contract hours are at 687/1000. Motion to approve the Chamber Directors report. **Motion: Stephanie, 2nd: Rich**

5. **ED Report:** In Lauren's update, she discussed all the awesome updates that have happened to the ED and Chamber office! A big thank you to Rich Burgess for helping with the painting process. Rainbow fountain is also seeing updates as Nate Hughes finished installing the sprinkler system! In the next year, the hope is to have the fountain running again after they are unable to get the main drain unplugged.

The exterior façade \$1000 match grant program opened this month and already on the first day, there were applicants! This program can be used for painting, windows, signage, or whatever it may be to update the façade of a business located anywhere in city limits! An update on the jobs video that B&B Video shot will hopefully be complete and ready to view by November 1! Work will be on going for the CLG grant for the next few months, but currently, the office is still working on location markers for the app.

Clearwater has the exciting news that they received the Housing Grant for \$221,000! They will be constructing duplexes. This was an incredible surprise and reward after months of hard work trying to make this happen! Lastly, Leadership Nebraska was postponed and rescheduled for the month because of the growing number of covid cases.

Committee Reports:

1. **Membership:** Invenergy had reached out in interest to be a member, but Bri has spent in total a few hours trying to solve the issue of getting the bill to the right person. Hopefully we can see them join soon!
2. **Promotions:** On August 18th, the Chamber hosted the Annual Teacher's Breakfast. This went over smoothly! Homemade Rolls were donated by Ruth Ann and fruit trays were provided by Thriftway! 12 chamber businesses also came together to create a goodie bag to give the teachers as a little extra appreciation! Goodies and breakfast items were

also taken to the ESU 8. It was decided that in the upcoming years, the ESU 8 needs to be included for this promotion.

3. **Business After Hours:** An update was given on the past few events. The number of participants at the Business After Hours has been lower and the chamber is looking for ways to improve it. The idea to maybe provide an incentive such as “Come back tomorrow with a coupon and receive \$5 off” may help. The board also hopes that the Rained-Out Messages will help remind people.
4. **Novemberfest:** The committee will meet on Thursday night to work on planning. Currently, the event will be on November 6 at the Antelope County Fairgrounds from 4-8 PM. There are already 8 vendors signed up!

Adjourn: **12:53 PM** **Motion: Lianne, 2nd: Stephanie**

Minutes reviewed and approved by: Traci Jacobsen, Secretary Date: 09/21/21