

Neligh Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting

November 9, 2021. Noon - Chamber Office

Present: Jill, Steve, Klint, Traci, Wade

Absent: Diane, Rich, Lianne

Other Guests: Lisa Hanson, Carson Whitesel, Aiden Kester, Donnelle, Lauren, and Bri

Meeting called to order at 12:04 PM

Approval of October Bills: **Motion: Steve, 2nd: Traci**

Approval of October Minutes: **Motion: Steve, 2nd: Jill**

New Business:

1. **Board Member Elections:** There are three positions that are up for election this year. All three board members that currently hold those positions- Jill Kallhoff, Rich Burgess, and Lianne Lawson- have agreed to be on the ballot for this year's election. A motion was made to cease nominations and to send out the vote to all the chamber. **Motion: Klint, 2nd: Traci**

The next part of the elections was to vote to fill the vacant position on the board. It was discussed to add a rotating position for the FBLA kids to give them a voice and vote since they help with a large portion of what we do. They also already attend almost all meetings. This position will be rotating to allow for a different FBLA student to fill in at the end of each year or if the normal chair is sick or gone for sports. This position will function as a normal 3-year term Board Member position to be reelected after their three-year term is complete. The motion was made to have the FBLA student rotating position fill the vacant seat. **Motion: Traci, 2nd: Wade**

2. **Chamber Director Report:** To start, Bri reminded the board of upcoming events that included Neligh Flower Shops Open House on November 11-13, Wanek Holiday Open House on November 12, Thriftway's Spirit Tasting on November 19, and Lucky Joe's tasting on December 7. The Chamber will also be doing their annual Christmas light judging contest for the three categories of business, residential, and religious for a chance for winners to receive \$100 off their electric bill. The City Utilities will be donating that again this year. Judging will take place from Dec. 11-15.

The Welcome to Neligh Bags need more promo items. Businesses are welcome to provide items for these bags as a way to let people who have moved to the area know about them. The Holiday Light Fundraiser of the Grinch has been moving around and it's been going well! So far have raised \$400. Bri is also currently working on the membership brochure to send out for next month for renewal of membership. Last, the Big Bucks should be coming soon. If they don't arrive in time, Wade offered to let ACN do some temporary ones as a backup option.

Most of Bri's time has been spent working on Novemberfest preparations and Parade of Lights preparations. As of the end of October, the chamber hours were at 868/1000. A motion was made to approve the Chamber Director Report. **Motion: Steve, 2nd: Klint**

3. **ED Report:** Lauren updated the chamber board on the different projects the economic development office is working on. For the Discover Neligh (CLG Grant) App, the photos were taken last month and have already been sent back. The ED office and the App developer are working on going through them to decide which will be used

for the app and which will work best. Neligh is also working to update our housing plan. In order to do that, RFP's will be sent out next month.

The Career Fair will be happening again this year. It will be on January 27, and currently, all schools in the county are participating. Lisa Newton-Hanson and Tessa Heying are assisting with the curriculum work for the day. After that portion is complete, students will have the opportunity to explore local businesses.

The CARC Review Committee will be meeting soon to review all loans and expenses that have come from the LB840 funds. Last, Clearwater is busy working on Project Connect.

Committee Reports:

1. **Membership:** Adorn had their Ribbon Cutting on Thursday, Nov. 4. This month, we also had Creekwood Chiropractic's ribbon cutting and our open house! Invenergy also has rejoined the Chamber!
2. **Promotions:** Holiday CoOp Ads will be in the paper the week of November 17 with 11 business participating. The Great Elf Hunt is a promotion that the Chamber will be doing this year in place of the previous Pick Your Present promotion. This will include elves to be hidden in participating chamber businesses. The goal is to have people look for the elves and take a picture of or with the elf after they find it. Then they can turn the photo into the chamber with a receipt to a chamber business that is \$20 or more for a chance to win one of three Big Buck Prizes! Amounts will be \$150, \$100, and \$50. This is completely optional for business, but all the chamber asks is for permission to hide the elf in their store. This promotion will begin on Dec. 1 and participants can have unlimited entries.

It was also discussed to try to get later holiday hours to promote local shopping through December. Bri will reach out to business to see if they would be willing to stay open later on the first three Wednesdays (Dec. 1, 8, 15). It will be up to the business on how late they will be open, but we are hoping to at least have it until 7 pm.

Last, the Halloween Trunk-or-Treat was a huge success! In the first half hour, there were over 100 kids that had gone through. Next year, the hope is to have more trunks and businesses set up to hand out candy.

3. **Business After Hours:** Traci will be having Neligh Flower Shop host a business after hours on Nov. 11 from 5-7 pm.
4. **Novemberfest:** Steve gave an update on Novemberfest. Overall, it was a successful event with around 180 people attending. There ended up being 12 vendors overall. The committee will meet soon to review everything and make notes for next year. The board did look at the P & L from the event and decided to talk to Thriftway about reimbursing them for their donations they made when we worried if we would make a profit. A motion was made to reimburse Thriftway for Novemberfest. **Motion: Steve, 2nd: Klint**
5. **Parade of Lights:** The Courthouse display was set up on Sunday, November 7. A big thanks to the Neligh-Oakdale FBLA for their help and to Rich Burgess and Doc. Jensen for marking all the spots prior with flags. The parade will be on November 28 starting at 5:30 PM! Sly's and Stealth are sponsoring the hotdog feed that will be at the Legion. The FBLA kids will be helping to provide games during this time, and Santa will also be available for visits.

Adjourn: **12:42 PM, Motion: Traci, 2nd: Steve**

Minutes Reviewed and Approved by: **Traci Jacobsen, Secretary**

Date: 12/7/21