

## Neligh Chamber of Commerce Monthly/Annual Meeting

April 11, 2023. Noon - Chamber Office

Present: Steve, Kelli, FBLA, Jill, Traci, Diane

Absent: Klint, Laurie

Other Guests: Lauren, Sara, Mayor Joe Hartz, Tammy

Meeting called to order at 12:05 PM

Approval of March Bills & Treasurer report: Motion by Steve to approve March financial reports. Second by Kelli. All approved. A correction second made by FBLA due to Kelli having to abstain from missing past two meetings.

Approval of March Minutes: Motion made by Rich. Second made by Steve. All approved.

*New Business:*

Professional Photos with Reflection Studio sponsored by Stealth-roughly \$25 Chamber director reported that Stealth will be sponsoring professional photo updates at Stealth, done by Reflection Studio. Date to be set. Lauren reported it has been requested for multiple back drops so that not all businesses have the same posed professional photos.

Friends of the Library-Kentucky Derby in search for Jockey's Chamber director reported that the Neligh Friends of the Library are hosting a Kentucky Derby fundraiser at the Ag Building and they are in search of jockeys. AMH, A & L Vraspir Construction, Blackburns, and Lucky Joe have voiced interest in sponsoring a jockey. If interested contact the library for more details.

Scholarship Director reported there is \$65.52 in the scholarship fund and that the due date has been extended to April 12<sup>th</sup>. Diane voiced concern about the scholarship as AMH already provides 6 scholarships for all the Antelope County Schools. Jill reported that it has already been approved and budgeted. Traci and Steve both reported continued interest in the Scholarship as their businesses don't have their own scholarship. Diane voiced it is good publicity for the Chamber. Steve made a motion to approve the \$200 taken out for the scholarship. Second by Traci. All approved. A corrected second was made by Rich due to Traci having to abstain from missing past two meetings.

Chamber Director Report: Total Hours 236

Expo-Director reported continued communication with prize winners, finalized profit and loss, and continued conversations with businesses interested in coming to the 2024 expo.

Banquet: Most of the director's time has been focused on the Chamber Banquet that will be held April 15<sup>th</sup> at the Legion. This year's theme is "Together Stronger" with the idea behind a community is like Jenga blocks. Together a community is strong, people come and go as do pieces of Jenga blocks, it only takes one block to knock everyone down but together you can build and create a strong foundation. RSVP's have been sent out, awards ordered, invites sent, and Facebook posts made to promote the event. Jill questioned start time. Director reported social hour starting at 6:00pm to allow people to attend church services if they prefer.

Novemberfest: Director reported sending emails and communicating with possible vendors for the upcoming Novemberfest. There has been some backlash from wineries because Toast Nebraska is hosting on the same November 4<sup>th</sup> date. Traci asked if the date could be changed. Rich reported there are home Nebraska games that

weekend before and after. Director stated they can discuss changing the date as they get confirmation on what vendors they can get. Food vendors have also been contacted.

Shred Day- Set up for April 19<sup>th</sup> in the ED/Chamber parking lot from 9am-10am.

Membership- Met with businesses who haven't paid their dues yet and set up plan for them to pay and continue membership. Rural Route One would like to do a ribbon cutting but would like to wait a few months so they can get more inventory in.

Ladies Night Out- Director is in communication with members who want to participate in Ladies Night Out.

Bylaws-Director reported receiving O'Neill's Bylaws recommended by Lisa. Director has just started reconfiguring to make the bylaws a little easier to read so that the amendments can get added in the body where needed. Diane asked Director to read the last three amendments and then stated that at the last meeting and current meeting there are people making motions that shouldn't be based on our amendments and asked how we are going to enforce that. Diane stated that the Chamber has gone from no restrictions on missed meetings in the last two years to voting restrictions if two consecutive meetings are missed. Traci recommended that the Chamber have similar guidelines as the ED board where roll call is taken. Director reported she would make the necessary changes to the agenda to include roll call. Jill went back and got corrected seconds for the March financial and scholarship approval.

Light Display: Director thanked Rich, Lisa, and Dan for getting the Nativity scene down and to Steve and Tanner who got the totes taken away with all the tree lights in them.

ED: The Director reported attending her first Network meeting in Columbus with Lauren. Assisted Lauren in Workforce Housing Grant Application. Spoke with different businesses on what services are available to them. The director listened to a SCED webinar on Blue Springs that addressed their housing and criminal activity and how the two are correlated. The director reported attending a business transition information session in Albion.

ED Report: The ED Director reported working on the Rural Workforce Housing Grant, stating we should hear back on approval by Memorial Weekend. The ED office has received an AST application. The annual TIF reports are getting sent out. The ED Director will be attending a few different conferences coming up the next month and a half. In Clearwater the ED reported continue work on the Downtown Revitalization Planning Study. The duplex project is coming along and they will be planting pots along main street in May.

#### *Committee Reports:*

Promotions: Traci- Ladies Night Out May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mother of the Year Traci asked if they would be doing carnations again this year. Jill and Diane stated they could go around on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

Holiday Parade of Lights: FBLA Director asked FBLA students to have Lisa get back with a date that would work for a pizza party for students who helped put up and take down lights.

Annual Banquet: Sara, Traci, Jill, Lauren April 15, 2023 **"Together Stronger"**

Adjourn: First by Steven and Second by Diane. All approved. Adjourn 12:53