

Neligh Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting

July 14, 2020. Noon Chamber Office

Present: Steve, Rich, Traci, Jill, Diane, Ben

Absent: Matt, Jaryd, Jennifer

Other Guests: Lauren, Bri, Lydia

Meeting called to order at 12:04 PM

Approval of June Minutes: **Motion- Rich, 2nd- Jill, Motion Passed**

Approval of June Bills: **Motion- Traci, 2nd- Ben, Motion Passed**

BBQ: The meat is purchased, very few items still need to be ordered. The BBQ Volunteer list is the main item still needing work. The idea of doing advertisement for the BBQ was brought up. It was decided to purchase an ad from ACN to have a banner the week of the fair. **Motion to spend \$150 on a one-week ad for the BBQ. Motion- Traci, 2nd- Jill, Motion Passed**

Old Business: (12:10)

1. **BRAN Scholarship:** The chamber reviewed the scholarship applications to choose who will be the recipient of the scholarship. Hunter Charf was selected to receive the scholarship.
2. **COVID Business Promotions:** This is tabled until August. Discussion on other ways to prepare for possible issues in the future include updating the website to include a “shop” option where people can click and shop online at local businesses.
3. Approval of adding a Chamber credit card for Bri. **Motion- N, 2nd- N, Motion Passed**

New Business: (12:20)

1. **Chamber director report:** The budget for the Chamber was reorganized and updated. It is now caught up. The monthly Newsletter was started up again and released on the first of the month. Lots of work is being put into Novemberfest to get the event off the ground again. The teacher’s brunch date is tentatively set for August 17th. Food plans were discussed. Current contract hours stand at 739/ 1040.
2. **ED Report:** ED Board is offering emergency grant funding in aid of business hurting during COVID. A digital façade grant is in the work. It will help businesses with their website, social media, and other internet platforms. It will be a \$1000 grant to assist businesses in the community. The DTR is officially wrapping up. After two years, it is finally on its last project. ED is working to create an electrical incentive. It would be for new businesses. 10% off their first year in electrical billing, and 5% off their second year. Lydia Behnk has been busy with updating the strategic plan, researching revolving loan funds, and documentation of nuisance properties.

3. **Novemberfest:** The date is set for November 7th at the legion. Event will start at 4 pm and end at 8pm. Dave Merkel will be the live entertainment. Ticket prices are set for an early bird special of \$30 a ticket and then will rise to \$40 mid-October. The Brewers Guild of Nebraska and the Nebraska Winery Membership directors have been contacted to help us start reaching out to vendors.
4. **Chamber Budget:** It was discussed to review the budget and make adjustments as need. Some suggestions were to move funds from savings into another CD or possibly into checking, and to possibly expand the Fundraising Budget due to taking on Novemberfest. It was decided to leave it as is for now and review next year.

Committee Reports:

5. **Membership:** No Discussion
6. **Expo:** No Discussion
7. **Promotions:** Next events will be teachers' brunch and parade of lights.
8. **Annual Meeting:** No Discussion
9. **Business After Hours:** Put on Hold do to DHM. Sly's is would like to host the first one (or one soon) when these start up again. They are getting a cold brew machine, so they will have coffee to serve. Looking to possibly start business after hours up again in August.
10. **Holiday Parade of Lights:** There was talk to possibly revamp the holiday display and spread it out around the whole court house. This was tabled until next meeting.
11. **Annual Banquet:** It was decided that instead of hosting our traditional Annual Banquet this year, we will be recognizing members at Novemberfest. How are we going forward with this? This was tabled until August.

Adjourn: **Motioned- Rich, 2nd- Ben Motion Passed (1:05 PM)**

Minutes Reviewed and Approved by Traci Jacobsen, secretary

Date: 07/22/2020