

# Neligh Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting

June 9, 2020. Noon Chamber Office

Present: Steve, Rich, Jennifer, Traci, Jill, Dianne

Absent: Jaryd, Matt, Ben

Other Guests: Lauren, Wayde, Bri

Meeting called to order at (12:07 PM)

Introduction of New Chamber Director- Bri

Approval of May Minutes: **Motion- Rich, 2<sup>nd</sup> -Jenn, Motion Passed**

Approval of May Bills: **Motion- Dianne, 2<sup>nd</sup> -Rich, Motion Passed**

## Old Business:

1. **BRAN Scholarship:** The BRAN Riders had granted a Scholarship for the Chamber to distribute to a high school student on their behalf. This is their thank you for allowing them to spend the night in the town of Neligh. The Board discussed what they would like to see and look for in a possible scholarship recipient. They would like to see it be someone who has been active in the Neligh community, specifically with chamber events. They also would like for them to have possibly worked in the Neligh area and to be someone who is striving to come back here to the business community. The recipient of this award will be present at the July 18<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony.
2. **COVID Recovery Promotions:** There will be promotions run after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Before the fair on "Shop Local" and different ways to try to help the businesses in the community.
3. **Membership Fee Reduction:** The chamber talked about the idea of reducing the dues for 2021 by 50% due to the Covid-19 Impact on some businesses. Business will have the choice to use this if needed or they can still opt to pay the full amount. This idea was Tabled for later discussion.

## New Business:

1. Chamber director report. No discussion
2. **ED Report:** Lauren gave a report on the progress that the Economic Development office has made in the past month. They had put in place a Gift Card Match Program that was sold out in less than a week. \$20,000 was put into the Neligh area because of this. Businesses are being paid upfront. 20 LB840 Business Grants have been issued in the past month. The DTR Project has been in the works with only two businesses left needing to complete their work

before the June 22<sup>nd</sup> deadline. The idea of being Lydia back into the office as an intern is being placed to the Council. She will be helping to work on and implement many project ideas. The ED office is currently at 607/1080 hours for the contract year to the Chamber. Bri has been made aware of this and is working to stay on top of the hours. The office is also working to get the Chamber budget put together for the next meeting.

3. Royal Business Joining Chamber: A Royal Business, RK Creations, had reached out to ask if they could become a part of the Neligh Chamber of Commerce. The board discussed the possibility of adding them, but they also were trying to decide how this business would be able to be active in the Neligh Community. A motion was made that RK creations was not illegible for Chamber membership due to the fact that their business would not directly serve the City of Neligh. Motion was put in place by Steve and seconded by Jill. Motion Passed. **Motion that RK Creations is not illegible for Chamber membership due to the fact that their business would not directly serve Neligh. Motion- Steve, 2<sup>nd</sup> -Jill, Motion Passed**

4. BBQ: As of now, the fair is going ahead as normal. It was discussed on what the Chamber would want to do with the BBQ. Some ideas were: Should they stay a beef BBQ or go to Pork for cost, if fair decides to only do the 4H/Animal side does the BBQ still proceed, should the meal order be cut in half? If the Chamber decides to proceed with the BBQ, they will make 1/3 the amount of food that they normally do. As of now, Chamber is proceeding as normal with topic being Tabled for later discussion based upon Fair Boards final decision and other Chamber business response.

5. Novemberfest: NYMC does not want to continue with Novemberfest (local beer and wine tasting event). It was present that the Chamber could take this event on as a fundraiser. **There was a motion to replace the Raffle with the NovemberFest tasting. Motion - Traci, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Jill. Motion Passed**

6. Laptop specifically for chamber use and QuickBooks: Current laptop is very slow, which makes it challenging to get things done efficiently. The Chamber is looking to upgrade to a newer laptop. **Motion to purchase a new Chrome Book and QuickBooks for Chamber use with amount to not exceed \$1000. Motion- Rich, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Dianne, Motion Passed**

7. QuickBooks Course: A Facebook poll was put out to see if anyone in the Chamber would be interested in taking a QuickBooks course. It was discussed the Chamber should put one on. There will be a total of two QuickBooks courses, one advanced QuickBooks course, and one excel class. **Motion to bring QuickBooks and Excel course to Neligh. Motion- Dianne, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Jill, Motion Passed**

Committee Reports: none

Membership: Steve (Previously Discussed)

Expo: No Discussion

Promotions: It was discussed on what the Chamber's next Events would be. This includes the COVID-19 promotions and the Novemberfest Wine Festival.

BBQ: Jill (Previously discussed)

Annual Meeting and Business After Hours: Put on Hold do to DHM.

Holiday Parade of Lights : No Discussion, will discuss at next month's meeting

Annual Banquet: The idea was asked if the Chamber would like to proceed with the Annual Banquet this year. The Chamber decided to instead recognize businesses at the wine festival to allow more public recognition.

Adjourn: **Motion- Jenn, 2<sup>nd</sup> -Traci, Motion Passed (12:56 PM)**

Minutes Reviewed and Approved by Traci Jacobsen, secretary      Date: 06/16/2020