

CHAMBER BOARD MINUTES DECEMBER 10, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 12:08 p.m.

Jill Kallhoff, Klint Arnold, Rich Burgess, Diane Brugger, Kelli Garcia, Laurie Larsen, and Steve Simonsen attended. The FBLA was absent. Tammy Struebing and Lauren Sheridan were also attending.

Rich motioned to approve the November minutes as presented. Steve seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Rich motioned to approve the November bills as presented. Klint seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Steve reported on Novemberfest, providing a P&L of the event. Steve said attendance was down approximately half from the previous year, with several contributing factors, including the absence of a director and lack of advertising, including door-to-door for the business. He intends to be more proactive next year and will provide an updated P&L at the January meeting and ways to improve the event. Steve also commented on the great volunteers and comments from the vendors and guests. Klint donated his \$250 start-up cash back to help cover the loss. Klint will host a Business After Hours in January with the leftover alcohol and snacks at the Stealth building. Steve will invite chamber members.

Lauren updated the board that the ED Contract from the City Attorney still needs to be completed. She also told them that the ED board had decided to limit the chamber contract hours to 600, as agreed at the October 24, 2024, meeting.

Diane indicated Grace Henn (Hilltop Community Pharmacy) had expressed interest in the board and would be a good addition. There were no new board member elections.

The board addressed the numerous calls and inquiries on the lack of lighting at the nativity display. Steve has been working with the courthouse on the defective south outlet, which is expected to be replaced today. The new sign on the west of the courthouse to light the flag interferes with the automatic light sensor by turning the lights off when it is dark.

Lauren presented the Chamber report stating that the Parade of Lights and Hot Dog Feed were well attended and served 225 people. She thanked the sponsors, Stealth Broadband, Thriftway Market, Friends of the Library, NO-FBLA, ACN, and the Legion. She also mentioned appreciation for the promotional grant from the Antelope County Visitors Promotion Fund. Lauren mentioned it was a nice addition to having the Friends of the Library help by providing hot chocolate and homemade cookies. The board and their families were a great asset to the event and are all very much appreciated. (Jill, Klint, Rich, Steve, Diane, Kelli, Lisa/FBLA). Lauren reminded the board that the Great Elf Hunt is on! However, there are slight changes, with two receipts per business per person and being 18 or over to be eligible to win. She reminded the board that Big Bucks are available at the office and that over \$2,000 has gone out this week. Lauren welcomed Overland Rehab to the Chamber as a new member. Kelli motioned to approve the report. Klint seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Lauren asked the board to consider an appreciation recognition pizza party for the FBLA students for their many contributions to the office throughout the year. Jill motioned to approve up to \$300, which Diane seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Lauren also presented the ED report stating the housing loan for the six-plex building closed on December 6. According to the owner, the apartments will be completed in 15 months and rent from \$500 to \$750. She also reported completing the annual review for AMGL for the NE Dept. of Economic Development grant requirements. Lauren stated the Memory Tree is lighted and ready to place ornaments from loved ones who are no longer with us and thanked Sara Park for bringing this new tradition to Neligh. She reported an AST electric incentive application for Next Step Counseling. Lauren welcomed Grammy's Kitchen to the Neligh business community. She noted the New Moon Community Theater – City of Neligh is working on the Phase II NDEE grant to collect soil, gas, and indoor air samples to confirm they are not hazardous. Lauren noted the annual Dept. or Revenue TIF report was completed and submitted in November. She also reported that the CARC- LB 840 account "watchdogs" reviewed the accounts and determined that the funds were being spent by state statute. In Clearwater, Lauren reported working on the new NPPD website and the village's intent to proceed with a planning grant package for updating the comprehensive plan, housing study, and infrastructure projects. She reported Pure Nebraska has aired several individual recordings from Clearwater sites and businesses, which can be found on their website or Facebook.

The board discussed the 2025 Expo. There has been feedback on the benefits limit for chamber members and Neligh businesses. 13 chamber members participated in 2024, and 12 in 2023. The expo is the most time-intensive event hosted each year. Rich motioned to postpone the 2025 expo one year and search for new partners to help. Steve seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion approved. We will contact partners such as the FFA Alumni and FFA. Refund checks will be mailed to the vendors who have prepaid for the 2025 Expo. We will also notify Slys Family Bar and Grill and the Neligh Community Center.

Steve told the board the "good" Santa suit is missing and was last used in December 2022. The "Bad Santa" suit was used in 2023 and 2024. No one knows what has happened to the Santa suit. Diane motioned to search for a new Santa Suit and possibly Mrs. Claus after the holidays, when they are more likely to be on sale, with a budget of under \$700. Klint seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion approved.

Rich motioned to give Curtis Borer \$25 in Big Bucks for helping set up the Christmas Lighting Display on November 17. Klint seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passes. The board also discussed turning the project over to the city or possibly the NYMC for more "manpower."

Klint submitted his resignation to the board as he will be moving out of state. Kelli motioned to accept Klint's resignation with regret, seconded by Rich. All in favor. Motion approved.

Jill announced that her term expires in December and that she will not renew. The board thanked her for her over ten years of dedication to the chamber, most of which she spent as an officer. Jill will be missed.

We will miss Jill and Klint for the numerous events they chaired and the support they provided. They will not soon be forgotten.

Rich motioned to adjourn at 1:06 p.m. Kelli seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.