

Neligh Chamber of Commerce Monthly

February 14 2023. Noon - Chamber Office

Present: Jill, Steve, Diane, Rich, FBLA, Kelli, Laurie

Absent: Klint, Traci

Other Guests: Lauren, Sara, Lacey Vanis (Arbor Care)

Meeting called to order at 12:05 PM Jill called the meeting to order at 12:05pm.

Approval of January Bills & Treasurer report: A motion was made from Rich to accept January Bills and Treasurer report. 2nd by Steve. All approved.

Approval of January Minutes: A motion was made by Diane to approve January Minutes. 2nd by Steve. All Approved.

New Business:

March Board Meeting: Monday, March 20, 2023 Jill reminded everyone that the March meeting would be moved as agreed upon via email to give Sara ample time to complete financial records and required documentation that is sent to Chamber members before a meeting, due to the Expo following March 7 & 8.

Chamber Director Report Director reported 87 hours. The director provided an updated 2023 budget and has completed 2022 budget if anyone wants to look at it. The 2023-2024 Nonprofit Corporation Biennial Report and the 990-N electronic e-Postcard and the Form 2 Nebraska and Local Business use Tax Return were filed.

The Director reported meeting with Simplot, Excalibur Detailing, and Rural Route one, all who joined the Chamber. Simplot is also attending the Ag & Home Expo. Excalibur is considering expo because he wants to get the word out that he details tractors, so he wants to reach farmers.

A majority of January was spent finding vendors for the expo. As of today, we are down to around 5 booths that need to be filled. A lot of businesses are backing out due to workforce shortages and state basketball. However, many new businesses are attending such as Creighton Locker, 402 Beef, JuJu Bean Coffee, and more. Director thanks Rich and Laurie for attending the Norfolk, Verdigre, and O'Neill expos which brought in multiple vendors that are coming to our expo.

The director helped the ED office by gathering information on the Chamber to help apply for the housing grant along with a few other grants. The Career Fair was held on January 26th. Steve made a motion to accept Chamber Report. 2nd Laurie. All in favor.

ED Report: The ED reported the office has been busy filling out grants for the Nebraska Tourism Grant, Rural Workforce Housing Fund Grant, and Nebraska Community Foundation Grants. The career fair was held on Jan 26, all but Pope John attended. The kids loved Tessa Hain's personality presentation. The kids want a more variety panel. They loved the state patrol and National Guard. The ED has been participating in a webinar series Attracting Rural Residents.

Committee Reports:

Membership: No Discussion

Expo: Get Your Booth! Director displayed a map of current open booths.

Promotions: Director reported speaking with Traci on having Ladies Night Out again. The thought was possibly May 3rd to tie in Graduations and Mother's day. This would be Chamber business only. Possible requesting an item worth \$10 from each participating business to put in a Mother's Day Drawing. Would have to spend so much at a business to get into the drawing. Diane voiced concern about competing with Bomgaars Ladies Night Out. Director stated fall Ladies Night out is ED ran not Chamber ran. Jill stated we could put that on agenda in fall as it gets closer. Director stated 150 information page is on table if anyone wants to look at them. Director also asked Chamber opinion on downtown flowers. All Chamber was in favor of the idea of flowers throughout downtown.

BBQ: No Discussion

Novemberfest: No Discussion

Annual Meeting: No Discussion

Holiday Parade of Lights: No Discussion

Annual Banquet: April 15, 2023 No Discussion.

Diane mentioned again that if any business is interested in group purchasing through Premier the small business can get a discount on office supplies. Jill asked what the benefit would be as their business goes through Eakes and they get the discount through them. Diane stated it might not benefit the bank but other small businesses. Steve voiced concern about getting supplies through a third party when there is Chamber businesses in town that sell office supplies. Diane stated she understood that as well but wanted to give the option to anyone who would be interested.

Adjourn: Rich made a motion to adjourn. Kelli seconded it. All approved. 12:42pm