

# Neligh Chamber of Commerce Monthly Meeting

February 9, 2021. Noon - Chamber Office

Present: Jill, Steve, Traci, Rich, Jennifer, Lianne, Wade, Klint

Absent: Diane

Other Guests: Joe Hartz, Craig Smith, Lisa Hanson, Ashton Higgins, Claire Whitesel, Lauren, Bri

## Meeting called to order at 12:05 PM

Approval of January Bills: **Motion: Steve, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich**

Approval of January Minutes: **Motion: Klint, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Lianne** (Rich & Traci abstained since they were not at the last meeting.)

## Old Business: (12:10 PM)

1. **Banking:** The new account was opened and started for the Chamber Scholarship. Funds that have been donated are being moved over into this savings account, so they are only used for the scholarship.
2. **Welcome Bags:** Previously, it was decided to move forward with the cloth bags for the New to Neligh program welcome bags. New bags will be ordered when they count at City Hall is down to 25 remaining bags.

## New Business: (12:15 PM)

3. Reviewing bylaw Article 3 section 1: "Any reputable individual, firm or corporation interested in the general welfare of Neligh and the surrounding area shall be eligible for membership in the Neligh Chamber of Commerce.": This topic was brought up to evaluate how we should be accepting businesses that are not directly in Neligh. It does not say in the bylaws anywhere that the Chamber will choose who is able to join. After the committee discussed this at great length, it was decided that all businesses should be welcome, and that somehow this bylaw article needs to be written more clearly to demonstrate the acceptance of the areas around Neligh. It was suggested to do something as simple as changing the wording from "The Neligh Chamber of Commerce" to the "Neligh Area Chamber of Commerce" to show our welcoming and growth to the towns around is could be made. This wording would only be used for bylaws and formalities, while the logo would remain as Neligh Chamber of Commerce. It also was decided that by doing this, the previously denied membership of RK Creations from Royal shouldn't have been denied.
  - a. Three new business have joined the Chamber. They are WJAG from Norfolk, the Summerland Advocate from Clearwater, and RK Creations from Royal.
4. **Chamber Director Report:** Currently, the Chamber Director hours are sitting at 90/1000. The Scholarship fund currently has \$345 that have been donated to help get this scholarship started. A scholarship committee will need to be put together to determine the criteria behind the scholarship. Bri also talked over how all decisions for the expo have been made and the committee is just wrapping up on some final preparations for the Expo that will be on March 2 & 3. Speakers at the Expo will be Josh Moening on Northeast Nebraska Growing Together, a

Streaming Devices to your TV Demo, A Healthy cooking Demo by UNL Extension office, and a speaker on Commodity brokers and marketing from CVA. It was also mentioned that some Chamber Businesses will be completing in the NCN Backroads Tour (similar to the Nebraska Passport Program). Deadline to register is February 26. Lastly, Antelope County News will be doing their annual progress addition. This would provide a great way for the Chamber to show what exactly they have all done despite the struggle of Covid-19 (Parade of Lights, BBQ, Pick your Present, trying to bring Novemberfest back, and more). A motion was made to have a 1/3-page ad at \$274. **Motion: Steve, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Traci.**

5. **ED Report:** Lauren briefly spoke about the Covid-19 emergency grants that are still available but will be wrapping up soon. **There is still \$2300 available for businesses in need.** She announced that the ED office will be working to create a county wide job fair that will be held on March 23. In the morning, there will be chances for the surrounding schools to learn about careers available in our area, and in the afternoon, it will switch to a job fair. Any businesses interested in participating should contact the ED office.

#### Committee Reports:

6. **Membership:** Dues are starting to come in. We are currently at almost 75% of our memberships being paid.
7. **Expo:** Currently there are 7 booths still open. Most decisions have been made as the decision making is wrapping up. The Expo is less than a month away.
8. **BBQ:** None at this time
9. **Promotions:** Traci- The next promotion will be the Mother of the Year Nominations around Mother's Day.
10. **Business After Hours:** Jennifer
11. **Holiday Parade of Lights:** None at this time
12. **Annual Banquet:** Lianne- Annual Banquet will be on March 6 starting at 5:30. The meal will be a steak, baked potato, salad, and a dessert. All Chamber Businesses are given 2 tickets and can purchase additional tickets for \$10. Please RSVP!
13. **Novemberfest:** None at this time

Adjourn: **12:57 PM Motion: Traci, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich**

Minutes reviewed and approved by Traci Jacobsen, Secretary

Date: