

Neligh Chamber of Commerce Monthly Meeting

March 9, 2021. Noon - Chamber Office

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

Absent: Lianne

Other Guests: Lisa, Claire, Ashton, Lauren, Bri

Meeting called to order at 12:06 PM

Approval of February Bills: **Motion: Rich, 2nd: Steve**

Approval of February Minutes: **Motion: Rich, 2nd: Steve**

Old Business:

1. **Chamber Scholarship Committee:** The Chamber discussed and formed a committee to review the scholarship applications and help create the first year “guidelines” for this scholarship. Committee Chair is Diane Carlin. Other committee members include Lisa Hanson and Jennifer Norton. The group will meet to decide details before the scholarship is released to the school.

New Business:

1. **Chamber Director Report:** Bri discussed the upcoming Backroads Tour that is being hosted by NCN. This will be similar to the Nebraska Passport Program and will be taking place between May 1- August 31. There are 10 businesses participating in Antelope County, 7 of which are in Neligh! The Antelope County Tourism Fund has agreed to help participating businesses by granting them \$100 to help cover the cost! They also paid the entry fee for the county.

The Chamber had also voted to post an article in the ACN Progress Edition last month. It was to feature all that the Chamber was able to do despite Covid. It was done beautifully and the graphic fit perfectly! My current contract hours are sitting at 238/1000 as of March 1.

Lastly, the ED office got a new printer! It is a higher quality, and with that the ink cartages cost more. For both (total) it is \$400. Replacing them 3 times a year brings it to \$1200. Would the Chamber be able to pay for 1 refill (\$400) a year since we also use the printer? Our current office supplies budget is set at \$800. In 2019, our office supplies total. was \$369. 2020 the total cost of office supplies was \$197 and so far in 2021 we are up to \$13. A Motion was made to pay for one printer refill a year for the ED Office. **Motion: Diane, 2nd: Wade**

2. **ED Report:** Lauren spoke on how the ED Office still has a few emergency grants available. There is also still funding for the Digital Façade Grant that would allow a business to increase its digital footprint. The Antelope County Career and Job fair is quickly approaching! It will be taking place on March 23. Businesses are encouraged to contact the ED Office for more information.

Last month, Lauren also went to speak in front of our state legislature to oppose them killing LB74- Microenterprise Tax Credits. Because of her and six other individuals who were brave enough to speak out on the importance of this program, it will continue to exist!

Finally, she spoke on a new contest that the ED Office has been working on. This is a video contest to help give inspired entrepreneurs the little push they may need to open their business right here in Neligh! More information is to come.

Committee Reports:

1. Membership: For membership, we are currently sitting at 93% returning from last year!
2. Expo: The Expo went well. There was beautiful weather during the expo, which is believed to have hurt attendance as some family's will be outside and farmers may have been playing catch up. Overall, we are estimating around 500 people to have attended between the 2 days! We were able to profit about \$3000 this year! The grand prize winners were also drawn via Facebook Live on ACN's page over at Lucky Joe's Liquor! 5 winners received \$100 Big Bucks.
3. Promotions: The next upcoming promotion is the Mother of the Year Awards in May. Traci and Bri will meet to decide details of prizes, ads, and promotion details. A motion was made to cap Mother's Day Promotional Spending to no more than \$400. **Motion: Steve, 2nd: Jennifer**
4. Business After Hours: Jennifer plans to reach out to different businesses for April to begin Business After Hours Again. In the meantime, the Library will begin doing their Pub Trivia at the Legion. The first is March 16 at the Legion and begins at 7 PM.
5. Annual Banquet: The banquet went great! Lianne had passed a message along to thank everyone for attending and to give special recognition to the Legion and Joyce for all their hard work and a delicious meal! It was great to be able to celebrate the Chamber in person! The winners of the Chamber 2020 awards were also announced.
 - a. Community Member of the Year: Brian Christensen
 - b. Chamber Member of the Year: Thriftway Market
 - c. Lifetime Achievement: Dodi Jessen

Adjourn: 12:35 PM **Motion: Traci, 2nd: Jill**

Minutes Approved and Reviewed by Traci Jacobsen, Secretary. Date: