

Neligh Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting

September 8, 2020. Noon Chamber Office

Present: Steve, Jennifer, Jill, Ben, Jaryd

Absent: Rich, Traci, Diane

Other Guests: Lauren, Lisa Hanson, Ashton Higgens, Claire Whitesel, Bri

Meeting called to order at **12:06 pm**.

Approval of August Minutes: **Motion- Jill, Second- Jayrd**

Approval of August Bills: **Motion- Jill, Second- Ben**

Old Business :

1. COVID Business Promotions: It's now time to start running ads and promotions to encourage people to shop local. The hope is to really hit this hard close to the holiday season and promote doing holiday shopping in Neligh vs other areas. Bri will review the budget and present at the next meeting what the Chamber could possibly use for funding.
2. The Chamber has provided bags in the past to City Hall for new community members. These bags are filled with information and promotional items for the new members to feel welcomed into our community. Should we continue with this or not? After discussion, it was decided to try to come up with a bag design that promotes Chamber Businesses more, and to look into bags that are reusable instead of plastic. Next meeting, the Chamber will review their options and decide from there.

New Business:

1. Regretfully accept the resignation of the Chamber Vice President, Matt Goracke. This is effective immediately.
2. Appoint temporary Chamber Vice President to fill the remainder of the year (December 31st): Ben was nominated to be the Vice President. With no other nominations, Ben was appointed to Vice President. **Position filled by: Ben, Motion- Jill, Second- Jayrd, Motion Passed**
3. Cocktail Tables: The idea of purchasing cocktail tables was brought up at the Novemberfest Meeting. The Chamber was deciding if they should purchase them or not. It was decided that these tables would also be a great asset for other Chamber events such as business after hours. The motion was made to purchase eight cocktail tables and skirting with a budget of \$700. Motion was passed. **Motion-Ben, Second- Jennifer, Motion Passed**
4. Chamber director report: Hours needed to be corrected. They were counted by Fiscal year, but the Chamber is contracted for the Calendar year. After the adjustments, the current hours are at 686/1040. The Teachers Breakfast & Sly's Business After Hours were both a success. Sly's also volunteered to run the concession stands at the Expo for the upcoming 2021 year. Last month it was decided to leave the State Farm Savings alone. The new rate for the contracted 36 months is a 2.03 interest rate. Some work

has been done in preparation of the Expo. Curtains are booked, senior center will make pies and rolls again this year, and possible speakers are being contacted. Soon, Bri will begin contacting past vendors to see if they are interested in partaking again this year. In the meantime, most of the focus is being placed on the preparations for Novemberfest. **Motion to approve report, Motion- Jayrd, Second- Ben, Motion Passed**

5. ED Report: Some businesses have applied for the LB840 emergency funding, but they will be put onto next month's City Council agenda. The Digital Façade will begin around the start of October. This program will provide businesses with \$1000 grants to help them with their social media presences, digital marketing, and point of sales. The Neligh Area Community foundation also was able to put up the Old Mill District Logo around Neligh. It can be found on 5 different buildings. The main priority of the ED office this past month was helping the Smeal's employees. A job fair was put on where 12 local business came and participated. From these businesses, there were enough job opening for every person at Smeal to find a new job. Different businesses have also been reaching out to possibly fill that building. The Office's main goal is to try to help prevent that building from becoming storage.

Committee Reports:

6. Membership: We will create a new membership pamphlet for November to send out when yearly due notice also go out.

7. Expo: No Discussion

8. BBQ: No Discussion

9. Promotions: Upcoming promotions will be the COVID Business support promotions, Halloween, and Holiday promotions.

10. Annual Meeting: No Discussion

11. Business After Hours: Will be at State Farm on Thursday, September 10th starting at 5 pm.

12. Holiday Parade of Lights: No discussion

13. Annual Banquet: Will be taking place at Novemberfest. The Chamber would like to recognize the awards such as Chamber Member of the year and the Lifetime achievement award in November.

14. Novemberfest: Currently there are for sure 3 wineries and 1 brewery participating. There are 3 breweries, 1 winery, and 1 distillery that are possibly interested in partaking in the event. The ticket prices were set at \$40 with the hopes of possibly allowing 400 guests to attend.

Ad prices for the booklet were set and created into package deals. This will only be available to Chamber Businesses. Tables will also be for sale on a first come first serve basis. These tables will assure the business that they are able to have a place to sit all night. These are also only open for Chamber Businesses to purchase. A brochure was put together to show all the package deals and pricings to distribute to Chamber Businesses.

Adjourn: **Motion- Ben, Second- Jill, Motion Passed (12:43 PM)**

Minutes reviewed and approved by Jill Kallhoff

Date: 9/16/2020