

Leon Chamber of Commerce
Thursday, April 7, 2022
Decatur County Hospital Conference Room
Meeting Minutes

Roll Call: Doug Kouba, Shannon Erb, Jo Beth Smith, Tonya Lindsey, Bob Frey, Marcia Stephens, and Chris Coffelt.

Call to Order: President Smith called the meeting to order at 7:34 am.

Welcome and Celebrations: The group discussed a new Destination Iowa grant opportunity released by the state of Iowa. The program will be explored for trails and other projects. Bob Frey was welcomed as the newly appointment Mayor of Leon. City staff were praised for their quick response to maintenance requests submitted by the public. Some comments were made about a potential new business in the former Buck Naked Sporting Goods storefront.

Approve Consent Agenda: Motion by Tonya Lindsey, second by Doug Kouba to approve the consent agenda including the April 7, 2022 agenda, and March 3, 2022 minutes. M/C

Financial Report: No financial report was presented.

Chamber Business

- Chamber Coffee Update: Many in attendance were also in attendance at the Dollar General chamber coffee in March. The group reported that 7 people attended, and it was a good conversation. The next Chamber Coffee has not been scheduled but multiple businesses were proposed including R & S Auto, HLT Auto, and LT's Auto.
- Banner report: Kouba presented a new design for the banner. Consensus was reached on a design, and Kouba will finalize the design and printing with Podium Ink in Mount Ayr.
- Flower Baskets/Beautification: the brackets have been lowered, and Mother's Day is the target to have the baskets hung. City employees and volunteers are lined up to water the baskets throughout the summer.
- 2022 Membership Update: Kouba reminded the group to follow up with their assigned contacts.
- New Website Development Update: Erb presented a design for the website. The group gained consensus to move forward with the design.
- SWCC House Sale: the first SWCC house is in the process of being sold. DCDC is working with the buyer to finalize the purchase, and possession will hopefully take place around August 1.
- Scholarships: Kouba and Lindsey will reach out to Kimberly Elsberry to solicit scholarship applications, and will plan to select a winner to be presented at the awards night on May 10th, 2022.

Live

- FLRSP: The group is in a holding pattern while the results of grant applications filter in. Signs and posts for the trail have been received, and installation will take place once equipment and experts are available to do so.

Play

- Boy Scout Food Drive: the group discussed this event, and many reported that it seemed successful. A note was made that we should try to help promote events like this in the future.

- Easter Egg Hunt: Stephens reported that SIRF has collected \$670 from local businesses to support this activity. Items for the hunt include candy and craft supplies.
- 4th of July / Citizen of the Year / Rodeo: a note was made that Chamber typically mans the cook shack during the 1st night of the Rodeo, which will be July 1st. A plan to recognize the Citizen of the Year during the Rodeo and parade is in the works.

Work

- Leon Development Properties: Chamber's bids for the properties located at 703 & 705 NW Church Street were accepted by the City Council. Chris Coffelt will work with DCLI to obtain a bid to remove the homes, and submit for the City Demo Grant Program. Chris also proposed budgeting for a fence around the property to encourage a potential builder/buyer.

Chamber/Partner Updates

- City of Leon: Bob Frey reported that he is available to help with any communication needed between the Chamber and City. Lorrie Scrivner will organize City Wide Garage Sales the first weekend of June. TIF was discussed, and the group reiterated the need for a council work session to keep this project moving forward. To date, no applications for lifeguards or a pool manager have been received.
- DCDC: Erb reported that Emily Munter has resigned from the position of Executive Director. DCDC is in the process of searching for a new Director.

Next Meeting Date

- Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 7:30 am in the Decatur County Hospital Conference Room.

Adjourn: President Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:57 am.

ATTEST:

Shannon Erb, Secretary