

Leon Chamber of Commerce

Meeting Minutes – October 2015

Call to Order:

Shane Akers called the regular meeting of the Leon Chamber of Commerce to order at 7:03 a.m. on Thursday, October 1, 2015 in the Decatur County Hospital Conference Room.

Roll Call:

Sue Kelly, Greg Crocker, Ethan Pitt, Marcia McAlpin, Pat Vanderflute, Kevin Frost, John Dunsdon, Monte and Laura Beemer, Joe and Marcia Stephens, Jo Beth Smith, Rudy Evertsen, Cayle Buckingham, Heidi Bell, Shane Akers, and Kolton Hewlett.

Secretary's Report:

Kolton Hewlett distributed minutes from the August regular meeting, September special meeting, and two September board meetings. Heidi Bell made a motion, Sue Kelly seconded, to approve the secretary's report. M/C

Treasurer's Report:

Marcia McAlpin distributed treasurer's reports to the entire group. Regular account balance as of August 31st was \$6,885.63, banner account was at \$2,850.10, LCDC account was at \$43,074.47, and USDA account was at \$25,093.48. Regular account balance as of September 30th was \$6,750.63, banner account was at \$2,850.10, LCDC account was at \$40,574.47, and the USDA account was at \$25,673.04. Sue Kelly made a motion, Jo Beth Smith seconded, to approve the treasurer's report. M/C

Old Business:

Fall Festival: The Fall Festival committee this year is Shannon Erb, Heidi Bell, Kolton Hewlett, and Pat Vanderflute. There are lots of games and activities planned to take place, and if anyone is willing to volunteer the day of they can let Shannon know. Kolton passed around the scarecrow contest entry form, which can be turned in to him. There is also a chili contest entry form and information about the fall dessert contest on the website.

Feasibility Study for ALCO building: Ethan Pitt shared that the ALCO building owner has sent the check to the survey organization and that the survey is expected to take place mid-October.

Hanging Baskets: Pat Vanderflute volunteered to help coordinate the hanging baskets around the square next year by gathering volunteers to water and maintain them.

New Business:

School to Work Program: Rudy Evertsen shared that the school is wanting to get the work study program started at the school again so that students can work a couple hours a week at local business to build job skills. The school will be developing processes so that students get experience in the entire job process – from resume building, applying for the job, interviews, etc. If anyone is able to host a student you can contact Rudy with a short general description of duties.

Christmas Lights: Kolton Hewlett reported that he and Maggie have gotten quotes for new lights this year. We have \$2,500 in the budget this year, and if we get all snowflakes we could get 10 for \$2,496.99 or if we get a variety we could get 7 for \$2,496.99. The group decided to get all snowflakes. Jo Beth, Marcia, Shane, and Shannon volunteered to help check light bulbs in October or early November. Kolton will send out an email with some date options.

Craft Show: The Southern Iowa Crafts and More Festival is scheduled for Saturday, November 14th. The Craft Fair will be at two locations this year – the school and Fusion Dance Studios. There will be shuttle bus service throughout the entire day. One pick-up location will be at the Decatur County Fairgrounds, the other will

be downtown at the corner of 3rd and Main by New-2-U Thrift Store. They are desperately needing people to help supervise traffic and parking. If anyone is interested in helping, contact Sue Kelly.

Tourism: Kolton Hewlett shared that Southern Iowa Tourism ads are due on October 9th. He and Ethan will be coming around to businesses to collect ads.

Kolton, Heidi, Shannon, Ethan, and Beth Saxton have also been working on a Decatur County guide all year, and are about ready to print it. They are still looking at a few more funding options, but will also be collecting ads for that at the same time.

Committee Reports:

City of Leon: Greg Crocker reported that the street department will be fixing the road at 13th and Church Street soon. The city council is also looking into options for the local option sales tax money, so that a certain percentage goes to dilapidated housing, with a majority portion going to street repairs.

DCDC: Ethan Pitt shared that he has had a few people inquiring about available lots in the community. He also reported that the conservation board is well into the planning stages of the new nature center at Little River Recreation Center. Ethan and Kolton both serve on the planning committee.

Visioning Group: The Visioning Group has another 50 trees coming in this spring for the Little League fields. They will be landscaping the “Leon” sign at the country club in May. They will also begin planning for the second stages of the downtown revitalization projects.

Suggestions for the Good of the Group:

Marcia Stephens shared that the Hy-Vee dietician has education classes at the fairgrounds periodically. She took her grandkids to one and really enjoyed it.

Chris Coffelt shared a little information about the football field and athletic complex. It is funded completely by the state-wide penny sales tax and is not creating a tax increase in any way. He passed out information about how businesses and individuals can contribute to the project through the brick fundraiser. More information is available on the website.

Kolton Hewlett passed out information about the Community Health Needs Assessment that Decatur County Hospital, Public Health, Community Health Centers, and Decatur County Community Services have partnered together on. There are paper copies in various locations throughout the community, but is also available on the hospital webpage.

Laura Beemer shared that they are still having the Rodger Brooks community marketing sessions in the Decatur County Development Corporation office.

Kolton Hewlett shared that Leon’s New Horizons, Inc. (New-2-U) has started a “Restore Leon Fund” where residents of Leon can fill out an application to receive grant money or low-interest loans for home renovations and improvements. Proceeds from the Fall Festival Chili Contest will go towards that fund.

Adjournment:

Joe Stephens made a motion, Jo Beth Smith seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The Board and Revitalization Committee had a joint meeting following the regular meeting in the hospital cafeteria.

Kolton Hewlett, Secretary