

Leon Chamber of Commerce

Meeting Minutes – May 2016

Call to Order:

Shane Akers called the regular meeting of the Leon Chamber of Commerce to order at 7:03 a.m. on Thursday, May 5, 2016, in the Decatur County Development Corporation office.

Roll Call:

Shane Akers, Kolton Hewlett, Ethan Pitt, Tammy Heintz, Marcia Stephens, Sherry Decker, Kevin Frost, Joe Stephens, Bob Frey, Heidi Bell, Pat Vanderflute, James Rowe, Marcia McAlpin, Shannon Erb, John Dunsdon, Cayle Buckingham, Chris Coffelt, Shelley Bickel

Secretary's Report:

Kolton Hewlett distributed minutes from the April meeting. John Dunsdon made a motion, Marcia McAlpin seconded, to approve the minutes. M/C

Treasurer's Report:

Kolton Hewlett presented the treasurer's report. As of March 31, 2016, we had \$71,040.04 cash-on-hand. \$12,893.96 in the general fund, \$36,078.92 in LCDC, \$19,217.06 in RLF, \$2,850.10 in the banner account, and \$1,256.10 in the RABGRAI fund. For the general fund, there were \$2,070.12 in deposits and \$788.33 in expenses. John Dunsdon made a motion, Cayle Buckingham seconded, to approve the treasurer's report. M/C

Old Business:

Bylaws: Shane and Kolton met with James Rowe and Verle Norris and updated the bylaws so that we are compliant with our 501(c)3 status. Shane, Kolton, Joe, and Chris will review one more time and we will vote on the updated bylaws at the next meeting.

Wine Walk: Kolton Hewlett made a motion, Heidi Bell seconded, to continue sponsoring the wine walk as long as there were volunteers willing to organize it. M/C

Community Clean-Up Day: Clean-up day was another success and several projects were completed around the town. The RAGBRAI hospitality committee will try to plan another mini clean-up day closer to RAGBRAI. On May 10, there will be a landscaping project at the Leon sign at the country club.

RAGBRAI: Kolton Hewlett, Shannon Erb, and Ethan Pitt updated the group on RAGBRAI. Shannon provided forms for sponsorships, donations, and t-shirt orders. Kolton shared that 8 out of the 10 \$500 business sponsorships have been purchased. Ethan shared that the majority of the campers will be within city limits, with less than 2,500 campers at the lake.

Fourth of July: Heidi Bell made a motion, Kolton Hewlett seconded, to not plan any activities on the square this year for the 4th of July. We can look at it again next year and decide whether we want to do something at that time. M/C

Kolton Hewlett and Sue Kelly are the coordinators of the 4th of July parade again this year, and will follow the same format as the last few years.

Scholarship Committee: Kolton Hewlett announced that Heidi Bell, Ethan Pitt, and him met to determine scholarship recipient and chose Victoria Ewing. The committee shared that they had three very worthy applicants and if they could have given each of them a scholarship they would have. Shane will present scholarship on May 17 at Senior Awards Night.

Hanging Basket Project: Pat Vanderflute reported that there are 20 baskets growing at Yutzy's Greenhouse. She had to purchase an additional 3 coconut baskets as three were misplaced from last year. There are spots for 25 baskets, but the group decided to start with 20 baskets for now.

New Business:

Thursdays on the Square: Kolton Hewlett shared that Corey and him are working on some plans for this year, and have changed it from "Thursdays in the Park" to "Thursdays on the Square." The plan is to get a temporary stage in the Alco parking lot that can be used throughout the summer, involve the farmer's market, as well as local businesses on the square.

SWCC Housing: Chris Coffelt, Ethan Pitt, and Shane Akers gave a report on the SWCC Housing project. There are over 20 kids participating in the program from CD this year, so the program will be in Leon. The school will be partnering with DCDC and Chamber to find available property and build a house on it.

Other Reports:

City of Leon: Joe Stephens reported that the city is still working on getting houses in town cleaned up as well as a street repair plan.

Visioning Committee: Shane Akers shared that the Noel Park Dekko grant was \$85,000 so they will begin working on that project after RAGBRAI.

Jefferson Highway Documentary: Kolton Hewlett shared that Darrell Johnston and Josiah Laubenstein of Highway Walkers Media will be doing a documentary on the Jefferson Highway starting May 6th in Winnipeg all the way to New Orleans. Darrell and Josiah will be in Leon on May 22 and 23 and is looking for people to talk with about Leon. If anyone is willing to talk with Darrell, contact Kolton and he will help get something set up.

Decatur County Development: Ethan Pitt shared that Leon was selected to participate in the "Cool and Connected" program offered by the USDA Rural Utilities Service and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Sustainable Communities. Ethan has put together a steering committee to help develop a plan for sustainable community development around broadband, internet, and technology in the downtown area. The visioning process will most likely begin in August.

Community Play: Marcia Stephens shared that auditions for the community play, State Fair, are Friday, May 6, and Saturday, May 7.

CCC Program: Marcia Stephens shared that the CCC program is May 23rd at the theatre. Proceeds go towards Visioning Committee and Library.

Adjournment:

John Dunsdon made a motion, Pat Vanderflute seconded, to adjourn at 8:15 a.m. M/C

Attest:



Kolton Hewlett, Secretary/Treasurer