

Leon Chamber of Commerce

March 6, 2014

Members Present: Shane Akers, Cayle Buckingham, Marcia McAlpin, Pat Vanderflute, Maggie and Cody Lindsey, Kolton Hewlett, Chris Coffelt, Larry McAlpin, John Dunson, Rob Kilgore, Heidi Bell, Jodi Wharff and Jack Depond.

Meeting opened by president Shane Akers.

Secretary's minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Motion by Maggie Lindsey, seconded by Rob Kilgore.

Treasurer's Report: Heidi Bell mentioned that we needed to check to see if Brittany Binning's 2013 Chamber scholarship had been paid. Chris Coffelt stated the Manny Atwood would know if the amount had been paid out.

Approval of treasurer's report was motioned by Pat Vanderflute and seconded by John Dunson.

Rob Kilgore reported that the town water break had been found and repaired. The city was awaiting two more water test to confirm that water was approved for full use again. Chris Coffelt mentioned that Angie Blades did an excellent job of notifying and updating the community and schools about the water issues. Rob Kilgore thanked the volunteer fire department and the city crews for the long hours that they put in to find a solution.

Old Business:

Christmas Lights were ordered, 9 snowflakes total with clear lights. City has received the shipment. Budget was for \$2000. Total came to \$2019.

Wine Walk – Marcia McAlpin reported that there were twelve stops so far. Instructions would be send to businesses. One hundred glasses were ordered for the attendees, if there are left over glasses, they would go to the business participants. If the hundred glasses were used and more needed, the glasses from last year would be accessed. Time of the event is 5:30-7 p.m. with a "chick flick" theme movie at the theater after the event.

Stephanie Covington had outreached the Wine Walk committee asking if vendors that she helps organize set up to sell goods during the event. Discuss was made and no appeals were made against having the vendors participate. Jodi Wharff was in contact with Stephanie and would contact her for the Chambers approval.

Community Clean Up: Maggie Lindsey reported that the date is set for April 26, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. BBQ celebration will follow. The flyers for the event are up and around town. It has been posted in the newspaper twice. Members were encouraged to help find volunteers for the day.

Committee sign up – Shane Akers reiterated that we need to recruit more people to help with the Chamber events. Finding new people with new ideas and to help decrease the workload of other members who are already on numerous committees.

New Business:

Shane Akers announced that LCDC has formed a subcommittee named the Leon Revitalization Committee. This group has been partnering with the City of Leon, Board of Supervisors, and Chamber with the goals of addressing derelict housing concerns and business recruitment for our community. We are seeking grants and other financial support to help with these projects. The Leon Revitalization Committee's current members are: Heidi Bell, Chris Coffelt, Maggie & Cody Lindsey, Jo Beth Smith, Jim

Fulton, Sue Kelly, Rob Kilgore, Mike Jordison, Angie Jensen, Doug Kouba, Virgil Wagler, Shane Akers and Cayle Buckingham. Anyone that would like to participate in this committee is welcome to join. The committee is very excited about the information we have learned and the possibilities to come. This committee will be seeking grant dollars as well as partnering with the City to discuss access to our Economic Development money with the city.

The committee is currently seeking out the property on SE Popular, across from the little league fields with hope to obtain from the City, tear down the property and make into parking for the little league events. The property will be returned to the City for ownership and maintenance.

Rob Kilgore stated the Angie Blades and himself would be attending the County Supervisor meeting on March 10, 2014. He asked for support from some of the current committee members to attend the meeting also to show the dedication to the project. Rob expressed that as Mayor, he and council members are going to review the role that the City has played in waving abatements, look at current rules and the issues that have arose. Issues such as properties that become a nuisance, being moved to a special category and not being offered for tax sale.

Cayle Buckingham requested to be added to the committee and was so as stated above.

Shane Akers spoke briefly about the South Iowa Council of Governments (SICOG) Housing Trust Funds.

<http://www.sicog.com/affiliates/sicoghtf>

SICOP offers grants that are available for towns to tear down houses. Shane plans to continue to research the stipulations within the program. The committee will continue to look for funding opportunities and other individuals that are interested in joining the committee.

Southern Iowa Tourism Guide – Heidi Bell stated that we missed the fall deadline and discussion was held as to whether we wanted to put together a flyer/brochure that could be available immediately at rest stops and business or to wait until fall to plan for the next tourism guide advertising.

The object is for us to sell ads to our businesses in Decatur County, in return we received a 10% rebate on the ads that are sold and the savings could come back to Chamber. Ads space is 33 inches. Approximately 1000-3000 printed guides are put out into communities. Public Health and the Decatur County Hospital have already voiced interest in placing ads. The Chamber must know our dates for the coming year to print in the 2015 guide. Suggestions to include Lamoni, Grand River and other surround communities to promote all events in the guide along with Leon.

The motions was moved by John Dunson and seconded by Marcia McAlpin to wait until the fall to place Decatur County in the 2015 Southern Iowa Tourism Guide. Heidi Bell and Maggie Lindsey volunteered to be on the committee.

Ribbon cuttings – Maggie Lindsey reported that the Helton Law Office ribbon cutting event would be on April 3, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. Members were encourage to make an effort to support the event by being present for the photo.

Hammer's, owned by Pat and Angie Hartley would be contacted about a ribbon-cutting event.

Suggestions for the good of the Group – Kolton Hewlett suggested that our new website have a section for new business and information on how to join chamber. Heidi Bell stated that a group on Central Decatur High School Student had entered an won a \$500 award for submitting a YouTube video. The video expressed support to our local theater.

The meeting was motioned to adjourn by John Dunson and seconded by Heidi Bell.

Next meeting will be on April 3, 2014, 7:00 a.m. at the Decatur County Hospital Board Room.