

Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

January 28th, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Merri Sevey, president, at 6:00 p.m.

The attendees for this meeting were: Shellie Callan, Judy Meyerhofer, Lisa Walters, Betsy Kaage, Jeff Graack, Lara Walters, Joe Ambrosia, Mary Katos, Peggy Francomb, Lynda Birkel, Anna Marie Pintozzi, Merri Sevey, Tiffan Beltran, and Mike Dittmar.

The Secretary's Report was approved by Judy, seconded by Lisa. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report has \$15,107.71, with 68 current members. This was approved by Mike, seconded by Judy. Motion carried.

Guest Speaker, Tiffany Beltran of Beltran Media, Inc. gave a presentation for a new Chamber website. Tiffany showed some different things that can be done with the website. After discussion, Merri made a motion to have Tiffany present a cost proposal at the March meeting, Mike seconded. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Village of Elizabeth stated the Village ordinances are very old, so they are currently being revised. There is a property owner who may annex some property into the Village limits so it can be turned into a subdivision, more information to come. The water bills may soon be electronic, more information to come. There have been 7 water main breaks so far this season. The Village has submitted paperwork for emergency grants to help with the costs of these water main breaks. The Thompson Prison sign is up for renewal, and will be renewed for another 6 months. The Village has a new police vehicle, which is 4-wheel drive. There are a couple of new businesses opening up soon. More information will come when this is more available.

Marketing is continuing to update the website and event calendar. If you would like an event posted, please email us.

Tourism is considering handling the Adopt-a-Pot a little differently this year, more information to be presented at another meeting.

GEAR will be starting up Yoga classes soon, as well as cooking classes. Youth Basketball has started, and signups for baseball, soccer, and softball are available. The next GEAR meeting will have a salsa tasting for a salsa fundraiser that they will be doing. Please come and find your favorite salsa. Jo Carroll Energy donated \$25.00 to GEAR. There will be a Chili Cook-off held at Jugs on February 14th.

OLD BUSINESS

CVB introduced their new Director of Sales and Marketing, Jeff Graack. Jeff spoke about some of the topics that the CVB is working on, as well as meetings, etc. They are currently updating their website. They are gathering information regarding the "tower."

Festivals were not discussed at this time.

Visitors Guide is all set to go to proof.

Tax Exempt status is still being worked on. Merri is working with the accountant to get our status changed to "not-for-profit."

Christmas in Elizabeth stated that the Toy Drive, with The Dollar General, went very well. The toys were given to Tyler Justice Center. The Santa Dash had quite a few participants, and will be held again next year. Having the event in Bishops was a big hit.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Meeting will be February 25th, at The Welcome Inn. The meal will start at 6:00 p.m., with a meeting at 7:00 p.m. The cost will be \$14.95, and your meal choice needs to be decided beforehand. More information will be sent out for this annual meeting.

New Resident/Business Gift Bags are needed. We are down to 1 bag. If you have anything that you would like to donate to put into these bags, please drop it off at Jo Carroll Energy, to Merri Sevey.

Member Drive stated that we would like to continue to encourage any individual or any business to join the Chamber. We will do our best to help promote your business.

Chamber Expo was an idea by Merri. There was discussion to have this expo possibly in the old gym, and to be held in April on a Saturday night, as food will be provided to purchase. The event will be handled the same as the Taste of Elizabeth. Businesses interested in having a booth at the expo can contact Merri Sevey at Jo Carroll Energy. If you are currently a Chamber member, there will be no charge to have a booth. If you are not currently a member, the cost would be \$40.00, more information to come.

Open Forum

Anna Marie Pintozi stated that the Jo Carroll CTE Academy is currently having a “crock pot” donation drive. If you would like to donate a new crock pot, please drop it off at the Farm Bureau building in Elizabeth. The deadline to donate is February 12th. These will go to families in need, and a class to show ways to use the crock pots will also be given on February 17th. Jo Carroll CTE Academy is having an open house February 24th. They are also working with the Elizabeth and Galena food pantries for needy families, and will hold a class to show how to cook some of the foods that come from the food pantries. Please call Jo Carroll CTE Academy if you have any questions.

The Republican Party Committee will be holding a dinner, February 6th, at 6:00 p.m. at Eagle Ridge Inn. To purchase tickets, please contact Mike Dittmar.

Judy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lara. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

The next meeting will be the annual meeting February 25th at The Welcome Inn.

The next Chamber meeting will be March 31, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Elizabeth Municipal Building.