

Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President, Merri Sevey, at 6:01 p.m.

The attendees for this meeting were: Peggy Francomb, Pastor Mike Nesbit, Tammy Trebian, Merri Sevey, Lisa Walters, Kristen Patterson, Kathy Wand, Ed Amstutz, Cheryl Rife, Joe Ambrosia, Katherine Walker, Shellie Callan, Mike Dittmar, Andrea Young, Norma Schwirtz, and Judy Meyerhofer.

The Secretary's report was approved by Judy, seconded by Peggy. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was not presented at this time.

Member Presentation was given by Andrea and Norma, representing the Food Pantry. There has been an increase in the number of families benefitting from this service, which is a good thing, but they are now in need of help with either supplies or monetary resources. They would like to partner with the Chamber and have the Chamber help market them to get the word out. The Chamber members all agreed this would be good to partner with them. After more discussion, Ed made a motion for the Chamber to give \$200.00 to help with supplies. Tammy seconded. Motion carried.

Midwest Garlic Festival had discussion of the turned out. There will be more discussion at next month's meeting, and Amy and Laszlo will be present. Approximately 3,000 people attended and the weather was great. There was a shortage of volunteers to help with parking, so the high school football boys were asked to help. We really appreciated their help. After discussion, Mike made a motion to host a pizza/wings party for them, and also to give the boy scouts \$100.00 for setting up/tearing down the mini golf. Tammy seconded. Motion carried. There was discussion of asking one of the banks to donate an ATM machine for the event next year. It was also discussed of having the beer be run through the Chamber. There will be more discussion at next month's meeting regarding this event for next year.

Music in the Park will be September 10th, and Black Sheep will be playing from 6-9:00 p.m. Mike would like to have food vendors from 5-7:00 p.m. If it rains, it will be moved to Jugs Main Street Tap.

Scarecrow event was not discussed at this time, other than there will be a scarecrow contest again.

Christmas in Elizabeth was not discussed at this time.

Color Run was discussed. Next year it will not be a color run, but will be an "Amazing Race" type of event. They would like some businesses to participate with allowing "clues" to be in their buildings, and possibly sponsoring a "team of 4." There will be more discussion to plan this event.

Light Poles are being painted and some new banners are being installed on the posts. There have been some new "3-hour parking signs" installed as well.

Brochures were not discussed at this time.

Tax Exempt has gone through and we are now a not-for-profit organization. We would like to extend many thanks to Merri Sevey for taking on this project.

Website is coming along. The new site is being created and will be ready soon.

Visitors Guide was discussed. Monica, with the Hanover Chamber, emailed their concern that some were not happy with the booklet and would like it to be published somewhere else next year. After discussion, Cheryl made a motion for us to stay with Village Voices

to print our booklet next year as we are happy with them. If Hanover would like to go elsewhere, they are welcome to print their own book. Lisa seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Village of Elizabeth would like to plan a big event for the towns' "150th Anniversary" in 2018. He would like events during the day, and then possibly music in the evening, followed by fireworks. A committee will be formed to help organize this event. The town is working on a "Code Red" option for people to receive calls, or messages on home phones and/or cell phones for tornado warnings, boil orders, etc. They will be mailing out information about this. They replaced a water main on Orange Street. Stephenson Service Co. is paying to install a water line to the new gas station on the West side of town. The town is working on some annexation. There will be a Zoning meeting September 21st, at 5:30 p.m. and everyone is invited to attend.

Gear had discussions about the Garlic Fest. They are currently having soccer registration. The annual Wrestling event, Funky Monkey, will be Saturday night of Craft Fair Weekend, October 8th.

Eco/Devo had a successful fair, despite being rained out Saturday night. They are working on the entertainment already for next year. They have added a couple new members to their Eco/Devo group. They would like to maybe revisit the mapping goals.

CVB is currently visiting various tower sites to see what would work best to replace our tower that was taken down. They handed out paperwork showing that the funding was approved for the Chamber to receive \$1500.00 for hosting the Midwest Garlic Fest.

Team Jo Daviess County Meeting was not discussed at this time.

Open Forum, Mike Dittmar said they will be hosting a gathering September 10th from 12:00-3:00 p.m. at the Dittmar Farms, with John Hay as their guest. There will be a pulled pork meal, and everyone is invited. Please contact Mike if you would like to attend.

Tammy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ed seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m. The next meeting will be Thursday, September 22nd at 6:00 p.m.