

St. Helen Chamber of Commerce Board of Director Meeting 01/25/2021

Held at Saint Helen Snow Packers, 520 N. St. Helen Road, St. Helen, MI 48656

Call to order by Ray Wlosinski. Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call. Present- Ray Wlosinski, Kathy Jernigan, John Sutter, Tula Alexander

Absent (both excused)- Jan Waltz, Janet Bawol

Additions to agenda by Ray to add events calendar. Add Grange Bell to speak regarding Visitors Guide.

Guests. Grange Bell, Brian Beltz.

Approval of minutes for last meeting, Motion by John, second by Kathy. All Ayes. Treasurer report by Kathy. President report given by Ray in absence of Jan. Committee report; Membership by Kathy. New member; Barn @ Evergreen Farms joined Chamber. Grants/ Tula and Raffles/ Kathy, none to report in either category. Discussion on bylaws will wait for Jan to be present at next meeting. Kathy stated that at the fall golf outing that the lottery board bought in most revenue. Ray discussed availability for Covid relief funds from State to help local businesses. Businesses should contact State Representatives for assistance on program. Many local businesses commented they applied and aren't getting any funding awarded to them. **OLD BUSINESS.** Discussion on Dec. 2020 Santa Claus Comes to St. Helen event held outside at CHA. Due to same day winter storm turnout was low. Left over candy was donated to St. Helen Helping Hands. Despite frigid temps and extreme snow CHA 'fill the wagon with food donations' was successful. Discussion on Christmas Decorating Contest. Kathy stated need to attract more community participation. Everyone mentioned that there were many residential homes decorated but did not enter contest. Ray commented on possibility of having Santa Train that visits area communities that railway travels through possibly stopping in St. Helen next year. Kathy said Santa Train can utilize Veterans Memorial Park if needed. **NEW BUSINESS.** Goals and Action discussion: disc golf and possible locations for development. IE; CHA, Community Center or Township Park. There are currently two disc golf sites in Houghton Lake area. John and Kathy to do more research and report back at future Chamber meeting. Golf outing in fall 2021. Quilt trail visiting tour as a possible event around Mother's Day. Chili cook-off. Grange inquired about rib cook-off event and mentioned he still has trophies that aren't engraved that can be used for awards. Discussion of annual Summer Kickoff event held weekend of Memorial Day. Possible pet parade or pet show. Grange spoke about Visitors Guide. Had sample books for review and difference of guide being printed in color or black and white. Grange said guide printed in color would add \$500. to cost. Chamber board discussion. Motion by John and second by Kathy to "approve \$500.00 for purpose of publication of visitors guide in color". All AYES. Motion Passed. Kathy said her and Jan will approach businesses for "general membership drive" in May and then later approach businesses for Visitors Guide ad. Budget items will be discussed at next Chamber meeting. Activities: 1) Snow run cancelled. 2) 'No Snow Fun Run' tentative date first weekend of June 2021. 3) Ice Fishing Contest by local business Minnow Bucket will be held every weekend in Feb. 2021. Chamber donated \$50.00 prize for each weekend. 4) Annual Medallion Hunt still to be held as a winter event. Sponsored by Fultz Insurance. 5) Discussion of pros and cons of Santa Comes to Town 2021 being held on Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend was had. Discussion favored moving this event back to Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend. Discussion of election of officers. Terms of board are two years. By-laws state establishment of election committee of three be established. Constant ever changing rules by State of Michigan for holding indoor public group meetings has left unanswered questions and concerns how elections can occur at this time. Topic will be discussed again at next Chamber meeting. Ray discussed that at recent DDA meeting all organizations give list of events and dates to eliminate overlapping dates and conflict. Chamber could be lead in handling this. Ray, Jan and Kathy who attend other communities Chamber events can distribute and promote Richfield Township/ St. Helen community better this way. Tula suggested that Chamber utilize the numerous property owners' associations in helping to inform their members of events and organizations. Public Comment. Brian spoke about July 2021 Fireworks and fundraising. Fireworks committee will continue using same company for fireworks display. Motion to adjourn made by Tula at 7:18 p.m. Second by Kathy. All Ayes.

Submitted by Tula Alexander