



Saint Helen Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 642

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St. Helen, Mi 48656

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Richfield Township Hall, 1410 N. Saint Helen Road, Saint Helen, Mi 48656

January 31, 2022

- I. Meeting Called to order at 6:01 p.m., the pledge of allegiance was recited by all
- II. Roll Call taken, Bev VanMeter (exc) , Jan Waltz, Kathy Jernigan, Ray Wlosinski, John Sutter, Vijay Kumar, Torrie Wright(unexc), Vickie Smith.
- III. No additions to agenda
- IV. No guests in attendance
- V. Motion by Vijay Kumar and seconded by Jan Waltz, to approve the minutes from the October 25th, 2021 meeting. Motion Passed
- VI. Treasurer's report given by Kathy Jernigan. Balance \$2387.22, reflecting all income & expenses. Report to be filed for future audit.
- VII. President's Report – Ray met with Roscommon EDC and has a lot of new opportunities for our community. Will follow up with leads. Ray went to the Santa Train when it was in Roscommon and made some connections. Would really like to arrange some type of stop in St. Helen. Kathy suggested a tent or canopy near the rail by the Fountain. Ray will follow up with this. The Christmas decorations have been taken down and he will contact Renée to put them in her barn.
- VIII. Committee Reports
 - a. Memberships--- Kathy took a "Welcome" package into the manager at the new Family Dollar/Dollar Tree and she is very interested in getting involved with the community. Hopefully they will join.
 - b. Raffles---nothing to report Kathy stated we need to do at least 2 fundraisers a year in order to keep our head above water. Ray would like to set up committees for events so that lead person can make a report on progress. Possible Committees: golf outing, Christmas events, P.R. committee, fund raising committee, etc.
 - c. Marketing Committee Report—the message center is in and Ray has it. He will get with the twp to see about getting it installed when the weather breaks. There is a program "First Impressions" through MSU that sends representatives through your community to shop, eat etc. and report back on shortcomings and ways to improve. These representatives are anonymous. This program requires 5 community representatives to participate: chamber, DDA, township, planning and park. This program will happen in 2023 at no cost to the township. Also, Roscommon is doing "Dreams for Sale" again. This program gets realtors to have open houses and search for possible buyers of vacant properties. This is to be done in July.
 - d. ARPA Committee Report-Ray is heading up this committee. They met and discussed ways to receive and decide on projects to use \$384,000 given to Richfield Township. They will be creating a grant application for businesses, residents etc. to submit their suggestions on how to improve the community. There are many requirements that have to be met to get an approval. Meetings are open to the public and are posted on the Richfield Township website.
- IX. Old Business
 - a. Message Board---see "c" under committee reports.
 - b. Organizations Meeting— Most organizations have already set their dates so this will be put aside.
 - c. Santa Parade & Tree Lighting—Ray said responses he got were pretty good, even though the parade was not as big as before. John asked Jason to do something with the fire equipment if he could and he did a great job. Kathy has a Sleigh lined up for next year for Santa to ride in. Discussed how the big pine tree in front of the township might be lighted. Vickie advised the board that she and her husband have donated lighted silhouette figures (their personal decorations) to the chamber to place in front of

the township next year. It was mentioned that the electric isn't very good out there---suggest this be looked into right away and use ARPA money to upgrade before next holiday season.

- d. Medallion Hunt—flyer is already to be posted. Paul Fultz will supply the clues and he is also donating the prize money of \$100.00. Jan or Kathy to contact Scott Marshall to get medallion made.

X. New Business

- a. Membership Acknowledgement for 2022-23—it was decided to continue to use the framed certificates. It seems a lot of businesses display them. Change up the design and paper color for new year.
- b. CofC office manager -- A Job Opening page was added to our webpage, based on a suggestion from Vijay at the October meeting. An email was sent to all businesses with no response at all. Vijay stated he sent an add---the chamber office did not have it so he was going to resend.
- c. County Economic Development Report—the county has grant opportunities for streetscape program. The target area is OLD 76 between Roscommon and St. Helen. We are possibly looking at solar street lights. Other opportunities were noted in Marketing Committee Report.
- d. CHA support letter—Dave Patterson is requesting support letters from various groups in the community for their refinancing. Motion passed. Ray will handle getting the letter to him on behalf of the chamber of commerce.
- e. Formation of Summer Kickoff committee---Kathy volunteered to head this committee, John Sutter and Vijay Kumar have joined in as well.
- f. St. Helen Snowpackers are trying to find a new home for buildings they have that represent some of the historical places in St. Helen. The chamber definitely wants to acquire them but are very limited for storage space. Kathy will check with Jason Herzberg (Store-Away storage) and see if he can provide some type of storage so we can get these replicas.

- XI. Vijay suggested that we perhaps have a sort of open house in town where anyone can go into any of the various businesses in town to see what they offer, visit with the workers, check out their facility, etc. It can be a morning or evening thing, whatever works best. Perhaps refreshments could be served—at the individual business expense. This could be done on a monthly basis so that it is only one business at a time.

- XII. John Sutter made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vijay Kumar .

Meeting adjourned at 7:11pm

Respectfully,

Vickie Smith
Recording Secretary