



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

February 28, 2022

- I. Meeting Called to order at 6:00 p.m., the pledge of allegiance was recited by all
- II. Roll Call taken, Bev VanMeter (unexc) , Jan Waltz, Kathy Jernigan (exc), Ray Wlosinski, John Sutter, Vijay Kumar, Torrie Wright**, Barbara Wieck**, Vickie Smith.
**Torrie Wright has taken herself off of the board, and Barbara Wieck has replaced her.
- III. Additions to agenda—Vijay wants to discuss W.Branch Chamber ball possibilities for us.
- IV. Barbara Wieck is new to the chamber board. She and her husband have had a place here for many years, She recently retired from Meijer downstate and her husband is transferring to the Meijer in West Branch. They have moved to St. Helen and she is very interested in getting involved with the community.
- V. Motion by John Sutter and seconded by Vijay Kumar, to approve the minutes from the October 25th, 2021 meeting. Motion Passed
 - a. John Sutter made a motion and Vijay Kumar seconded the motion to accept Barbara Wieck to the Board in place of Torrie Wright. Motion Passed
Vickie said the chamber received a letter of thanks from the NMCAC (children’s assessment center) for participating in their Festival of Trees.
- VI. Treasurer’s report submitted by Kathy Jernigan. Balance \$2170.65, reflecting all income & expenses. Report to be filed for future audit.
- VII. President’s Report – The support letter for CHA has been written and delivered to Dave Patterson.
- VIII. Committee Reports
 - a. Memberships--- JMHR (new to area) joined the chamber. Nothing from Family Dollar yet.
 - b. Raffles---nothing to
 - c. Marketing Committee Report—Kathy not in attendance
 - d. ARPA Committee Report-Ray is heading up this committee. The grant application is close to being completed. They will notify when they are available.
 - e. Summer Kick Off—Kathy has been getting things rolling. Happy Pups (Stephanie & Jay) will either do a kids pet show or a dog agility show. Harley will sponsor a beard & moustache competition, judging will be done by hairdressers (Mary Jo & Stefanie). Harley also said he would see what he can come up with for an ice cream social..if not we will approach Mr. B (Bob Wright). We Care will then be able to do their normal hot dog sale. She would like to try a “Taste of St. Helen”. She will discuss with John Sutter what might be needed to hold this event. Kelly Sharrow has agreed to take care of watermelon eating and pie eating contest. I will contact Marilyn Nieman to see if she can do some kids games as well.
 - f. Nothing new at the office.
- IX. Old Business
 - a. Joint meeting of Organizations-Ray. Put aside
 - b. Medallion Hunt Winner--Jennifer Austin won the medallion hunt and there were a few comments on facebook that it wasn’t located on “public land”. Vickie does not respond to these kinds of comments because it just draws in more discussion. Gets you nowhere
 - c. Miniature Buildings—they have been delivered to Chris Beltz building (old Pioneer Pharmacy building). Chris is making an antique automobile museum there and possibly will give us a corner to use as a historical area.

- X. New Business
- a. 2022 meeting dates --- removed from current agenda
 - b. Consumer Energy Grants—Ray Consumers Energy is giving 3 grants out: \$50,000-\$20,000 and \$10,000. These are no match grants and are to be used for community beautification. Ray wants to pursue the grant for flags & flagpoles and if enough money is received—for solar decorative tall lamps along the street.
 - c. The bass tournaments that are coming to town are a go. The township is dragging their feet about allowing them to use our facilities, however, Ray has alternate options for their weigh in if the launch or park areas are not available.
 - d. Ray has been in touch with the Great Lakes International Antique Fire Apparatus Association (GLIFAAA). They are interested in having a demonstration/display in St. Helen. Ray will work with them to come up with an event.
- XII.
- a. Vijay and Barb both attended the West Branch Chamber Ball and were very impressed. They would like to see if something of that nature could be developed in St. Helen. Discussed the possibility of a large enough space to hold such an event. The Barn can only be used during the week unless we pay the price for an event on a weekend. The school was suggested but that is unlikely since Covid they have closed most of their facilities to the public. Barb and Vijay agreed to be part of a Community Relations & Event Committee to see what they can develop.
 - b. Barb would like to see some activity at the Veterans Memorial, such as veterans talks. John advised he's the 2nd youngest VFW member and their membership is dwindling. American Legion does not participate much---Kathy and others have tried many times to get a parade, gathering etc. but it has never panned out.
 - c. John Sutter announced the Easter Egg Hunt will take place on April 16th. VFW will have Easter Dinner on Easter from 1pm until gone. Dine In, Take Out, Phone Order/Deliver.
- XIII. John Sutter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15pm, seconded by Vijay Kumar .

Meeting adjourned at 7:11pm

Respectfully,

Vickie Smith
Recording Secretary