



St. Helen Chamber of Commerce

April 26, 2021

Meeting Minutes

- I. Meeting was called to order at 6pm by president, Jan Waltz. Pledge of Allegiance recited by all in attendance
- II. Roll Call: Janet Bawol, Kathy Jernigan, Jan Waltz and Ray Wlosinski were present. John Sutter and Tula Alexander were absent with notice. A quorum was present
- III. Additions to the Agenda- None
- IV. Introduction of Guests – Bev VanMeter was present.
- V. Approval of March 29, 2021 Minutes - A motion was made by Ray Wlosinski to accept the minutes as presented and the motion was seconded by Kathy Jernigan. Motion passed.
 - a. Correspondence—None
- VI. Treasurer’s report— Kathy reviewed the income/expenses for April 2021.
- VII. President’s Report – Jan reported there will be a Campground is coming to the I-75 exit. There is the possibility of a gas station going in at that location also. The Family Dollar store which was approved to be built on St. Helen Road is on hold for the time being as the price of building materials has increased substantially in cost. Also, RZR Ripn Rentals has moved to the old party store from the current auto repair building. This will allow for them to sell shirts, hats and have a drive through service available.
- VIII. Standing Committee reports;
 - a. Membership – Kathy noted that Bev is the one new member of the chamber and when things quiet down a bit, she is going to visit some local businesses.
 - b. Grants – Nothing new to report.
 - c. Raffles – Nothing new to report.
- IX. Old Business
 - a. Santa Comes to St. Helen – Discussions continue regarding the possibility of moving the event to Thanksgiving weekend. The Chamber members would like to host this event on Saturday following Thanksgiving however, the St. Helen Lake Association (SHLA) board is not available that weekend. The lake association has set December 4 as the day they would host the parade, however should the Christmas events be moved the Thanksgiving weekend, another individual or group will have to host the parade. Nothing was determined and discussion will continue at the next chamber meeting.
 - b. Summer Kick-Off – Kathy reported that Jeff Ferguson is going to have a casting contest for this event. There are other kids’ games being planned. She continues to work on planning the event.
 - c. Disc Golf – Kathy has been doing some research regarding the installation of a disk golf course. It turns out that it is not as expensive as originally thought. Most communities have these courses in partially wooded areas. Discussions will continue.
 - d. Nominations – There are 6 people who are interested in being on the Chamber board. One more person is needed for a full board. Kathy and Jan will speak to a couple of people who may be interested.
 - e. Summer Blast – This is scheduled for June 10, 11, and 12 with the drawing for the prizes being held on June 12.
 - f. Quilt Show – This is tentatively scheduled for October. Discussions will continue.
 - g. Tourist Guide – Grange continues to work on this guide.
- X. New Business:
 - a. Bluegill Festival Fishing Contest donation request – Jeff Ferguson is sponsoring the fishing contest that’s held during the Bluegill Festival and will be donating \$300.00 as the adult prize, in addition to donating the kid’s prizes. Ray made a MOTION the Chamber contribute \$100.00 to the Minnow Bucket to assist with the Fishing Contest. Jan approved. The MOTION carried.
 - b. Seasonal Business chamber dues – Discussion regarding seasonal businesses and if the chamber dues should be adjusted for the businesses that are closed a minimum of 5 months, such as the golf course. It was agreed the chamber would charge these types of businesses \$75.00 instead of the full year for \$100.00. Kathy made a MOTION to charge seasonal businesses \$75.00, Ray supported. The MOTION carries.

- XI. Audience Items – Houghton Lake is scheduled to host its annual Business Expo on May 24. Following discussions, the board decided to not participate this year due to COVID. Kathy made a MOTION the St. Helen Chamber will not participate in the Houghton Lake Business Expo in 2021, Ray supported. The MOTION carries.

Kathy reported the EDC is requesting monies from the county to reimburse municipalities for the revenue they lost during the COVID pandemic in 2020.

Janet inquired that since the next meeting is scheduled for Memorial Day, should it be changed to Tuesday, June 1. All agreed. Janet will send an email to Vickie to advertise June 1 as the date for the next chamber meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Bawol, Secretary

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