

St Helen Chamber of Commerce  
April 29, 2019  
Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance - The meeting was called to order by President Jan Waltz at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call by Secretary Janet Bawol: Jan Waltz, Janet Bawol, Kathy Jernigan, John Sutter, Connie Barton and Ray Wlosinski were present. Bev VanMeter was absent for tonight's meeting. A quorum was present.
3. Additions to the Agenda – Monday, May 27 meeting. Because the next Chamber meeting is scheduled for Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, members agreed to move the meeting to Tuesday, May 28.
4. Introduction of Guests – Mr. Scott Bell and Mr. Bob Griffin of the Ogemaw Nature Park.
5. Approval of March 25, 2019 minutes- Ray Wlosinski made a MOTION to approve the minutes with no corrections. John Sutter supported. The MOTION carried.
6. Correspondence – Kathy briefly discussed a request from an elementary school in the Midland area requesting information about St. Helen.
7. Treasurer's Report – Kathy reviewed expenses and receipts for March 2019. She also discussed the 2019-2020 budget noting the loss of monies from the ORV Jamboree and emphasizing the importance of getting new members. In the coming weeks, Kathy, Jan and Ed will discuss ways to increase business membership in St. Helen.
8. President's Report – Jan reminded everyone of the local expos coming up. Houghton Lake is on May 1 and Roscommon is scheduled for May 15. She also noted new businesses which recently opened in St. Helen including: The Angry Oven, Minnow Bucket, Carts R Us, Dirty Smoke BBQ Wagon and Sweet Spot. Mark Constance from the Ogemaw Herald is interested in having a column in the paper from local Chambers of Commerce. Jan will look into that. She also mentioned the annual Quilt Trail event in Shepard on June 5. Kathy will attend on behalf of the chamber
  - a. Ogemaw Nature Park Presentation – Mr. Bell and Mr. Griffin discussed the local nature center which is owned by Ogemaw County. They explained that in 2017, the park was near closing permanently but they started a Go Fund Me which resulted in approximately \$7,000 in donations. They also discussed other fundraising efforts which include signs for donors who give \$100 or more. They are planning on expanding the pens and adding new fencing. A possible endowment fund is another option for the future. They are requesting that St. Helen Chamber promote this as another location for residents and visitors to enjoy.
9. Committee Reports
  - A. Membership – Kathy discussed this briefly earlier in the meeting.
  - B. By-Laws Review – Ray, Jan and Janet have met and made some minor changes/updates in the Chamber bylaws which include reference to areas discussing electronic transfers, voting procedures including how to appoint new board members, clarified language regarding members voting for motions and language regarding the newly-acquired credit card for use by the Office Manager. A draft will be prepared for the next meeting for members review, comments and vote.

- C. Summer Kick-Off – Kathy reported she has 17 vendors coming to the event and is need of people to help with set-up on the Friday prior to the event. Fultz Insurance is sponsoring the Watermelon Eating Contest and is donating the melons. She also needs some volunteers to facilitate the games.
10. Old Business
    - A. Local Visitors Guide – Jan reported that Grange is planning on having these printed before Memorial Day for distribution.
  11. County Visitors Guide – Jan distributed prior to today’s meeting.
  12. New Business
    - A. Website Cost Increase – This is needed as Vickie is utilizing the Chamber website more and has run out of space to post events, notices, etc. It will give her unlimited space on the website. Ray made a MOTION to approve a \$7.00 per month cost increase, John supported. The MOTION carried.
    - B. Fundraising Ideas – It is critical that the board explore some new avenues to increase revenue. Suggestions included a dinner with live music and live auction, doing a 50/50 at the Summer Kick-Off and a 5k. The board will discuss these ideas again during the May meeting.
  13. Items from Audience Members – John reported that he has started a Junior Volunteer Club. So far, he has 8 kids plus adults. They will be at the Summer Kick-Off in a couple of weeks. Ray discussed the upcoming ORV safety training for kids. He currently has 45 participants and had to close the registration. He is possibly looking at August to host another safety class.
  14. Adjourn – Motion to adjourn by Jan and John. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Bawol, Chamber Secretary