



St. Helen Chamber of Commerce

August 31, 2020

Meeting Minutes

- I. Meeting was called to order at 6pm. Pledge of Allegiance recited by all in attendance
- II. Roll Call: Jan Waltz, Janet Bawol, Tula Alexander, Kathy Jernigan and Ray Wlosinski were present. Ed Bergeron was present by phone. John Sutter was absent with notice. A quorum was present
- III. Additions to the Agenda- None
- IV. Introduction of Guests – Vickie Smith
- V. Approval of July 27, 2020 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—Janet read two letters; one from Lake Superior State University indicating they are excited to be in the community and looking forward to meeting with the chamber, and another from Northern Michigan Children’s Assessment Center, thanking the chamber for their donation and outlining a recent case.
- VI. Treasurer’s report—Kathy reviewed expenses and income from August 2020.
- VII. President’s Report – Jan is requesting board members to visit some of the businesses who have not renewed their chamber membership. Currently there are about 20. Jan recently spoke with Steve Brooks of Gillies Landscaping & Garden Shop. They are planning a “soft” opening prior to Halloween. Since they had to gut out the building, they have been set back with their opening. Kathy and Jan represented the chamber at the ‘No ORV Jam’ parade. No Limits Pizza contacted Jan and would like to have a Pizza Competition. Discussion will continue at the next meeting. Brief discussion whether Trunk or Treat will continue this year.
- VIII. Standing Committee reports;
 - a. Membership: Discussed above during Jan’s report
 - b. Grants: Nothing new to report.
 - c. Raffles – Nothing new to report.
 - d. Lake Association – Janet reported the St. Helen Lake Association will be hosting their annual meeting on September 5 at the Park Pavilion at 10 am. Also, the lake association intends to host the annual Santa Comes to St. Helen Christmas Parade on December 5. Janet inquired if the chamber board will be having a Santa Claus. Members discussed the possibilities of having Santa outdoors this year and how that would work. Discussion will continue during the next meeting. Jan and Kathy are in favor of going forward with a Santa this year.
- IX. Old Business
 - a. Candidates Forum in September – Members discussed hosting a candidates’ forum for the Richfield Township Ballot candidates. Janet inquired if the chamber hosting this event was such a good idea since two members (Ray and Tula) are running for seats on the township board. This gives it a look of impropriety. Jan assured the board this had been done in prior years including members of the chamber running for township positions and was not a problem. Ed will be planning the event as he has done in the past. A date and location need to be determined so letters of invite can be sent out quickly.
 - b. Summer Blast Sales – Kathy indicated the 2900 tickets were placed in the boxes from sales. The grand winner was a customer from St. Helen Hardware. Businesses thought this promotion was a great idea. Board members discussed what things could have been done differently including a letter much in advance to the businesses explaining the promotion and contacting the businesses to meet with them one-on-one to further explain the promotion.
 - c. Golf Tournament – Ray. This event is scheduled for Sunday, September 27 at Birch Point Golf Course. If people are interested in signing up, they are to sign up at the golf course. Ray will begin looking for ‘hole sponsors’ and requested board members to volunteer for this event. A 50/50 will be held, also.
 - d. Fall Fish Fry – Kathy. This event is rescheduled for possible spring timeframe.
- X. New Business: None
- XI. Additional Items
 - a. Tula briefly discussed the TOP BASS ANGLERS fishing tournament hosted at Lake St. Helen this past weekend. It was well attended and the people in the contest seemed to be patronizing the local businesses as it was a two-day tournament.

- b. Vickie inquired about the organizational meeting, which was scheduled for this past March. Ray suggested this could be held sometime during the first two weeks of January. This is for all of the organizations in St. Helen and the Houghton Lake and Higgins Lake-Roscommon Chambers, to share their calendars so events are not double scheduled throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Bawol, Secretary

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