



St. Helen Chamber of Commerce

June 1, 2020
Special Meeting Notes

- I. Meeting was called to order at 6pm. Pledge of Allegiance recited by all in attendance
- II. Chamber/DDA members present: Jan Waltz, Janet Bawol, Tula Alexander, John Sutter, Kathy Jernigan, Ray Wlosinski, Roberta Kary and Vickie Smith were present. Ed Bergeron participated by phone. Tracy Smith and Greg Watt attended as guests.
- III. Jan briefly discussed the following items:
 - DDA will be planting flowers in planter boxes
 - There is a “new” entrance at Benjamin Realty for Chamber members. Because of the virus, the south door to the building will need to be utilized by chamber members.
 - There is a hazardous waste event this coming Saturday at the Road Commission building.
 - There are meetings being held at the Township Hall. They are being published on the township website.
 - The community garden needs volunteers to weed, plant, etc.
- IV. Presentation – Tracy Smith. There will be a county-wide contest for businesses during the month of July. Summer Buying Blast. Businesses will be provided with banners and other materials to advertise this incentive. Each time a customer makes a \$10.00 purchase in a participating business, they receive a ticket to enter a drawing. Then at the end of the month, there will be one finalist chosen from all the names submitted to win a gift valued at \$500 to \$800. The idea is to get people back into the small local businesses. Kathy made a MOTION to approve St. Helen businesses participate in this incentive, John supported. The MOTION carries.

DDA Dollars – Ray Wlosinski. Ray discussed a second promotion for businesses. A customer would purchase a \$25.00 gift card from a participating business, then receive an additional \$10.00 gift voucher. The DDA would provide the \$10 voucher for this incentive (up to \$1,000). It would run for approximately one week – most likely the second week in August. Jan made a MOTION to approve St. Helen businesses to participate, Tula supported. The MOTION carries.

2020/2021 Dues for Chamber members – there was brief discussion regarding how the businesses will pay their dues for the next fiscal year. Because of the virus, businesses have been struggling so the suggestion is to allow them to pay 50% now, then 50% in 2021. Kathy made a MOTION to approve this plan, John supported. The MOTION carries. Vickie will draft a letter advising of this plan for the next fiscal year.

D & B Marina – Members discussed if anyone had met the new owners of this marina. Ray will take a membership packet over to them and pass current information onto Vickie.

ATV Jam – A decision will be made at their meeting tonight.

Authorized Signer on DDA Account – Jan requested having her name added to the DDA bank account as an authorized signer. Following discussions, Kathy made a MOTION to approve her request, Tula supported. The MOTION carries.

Zoom Meetings – Jan inquired if the DDA/Chamber meetings could be held over Zoom. Because of the Open Meetings Act, whomever is participating via Zoom would be unable to vote. Additionally, there could be a Wi-Fi issue at the Township Hall making it difficult for everyone involved. At this time, the DDA and Chamber will continue to host face-to-face meetings.

Hanging Baskets – Ray and his wife are donating some hanging baskets to be placed on the lamp posts throughout town. They will be red, white and blue in color.

Ray also mentioned that should any business have financial or unemployment issues, Representative Rendon is available to submit those concerns or complaints. Ray indicated that she is very proactive with any concerns that come into her office.

The next Chamber meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 29. The next DDA meeting is Tuesday at 8:00 a.m.

Bass Tournament – Tula reported there are going to be two bass tournaments, one on August 8 and one is a two day, beginning on August 29. Both will be held at the boat launch area. She also reported the new directional signs are ready to be installed. She showed one to the members present. The Road Commission will be installing these soon.

Kathy thanked Tracy Smith for her presentation tonight and all the work she does for the St. Helen Chamber.

VFW Fire – John reported the recent fire at the VFW hall was an electrical fire. Insurance will pay for some of the electrical in this building to be brought up to code. The building will be unusable for one month. He also discussed that We Care has started charging a minimum donation for their items. If someone comes in and cannot afford that, he will work with them. The food pantry is full and going strong.

Charlton Heston graduation is Saturday, June 6.

Tula made a MOTION to adjourn, Jan supported. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully,

Janet Bawol, Secretary
St. Helen Chamber

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