



# St. Helen Chamber of Commerce

## June 29, 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, John Sutter, Kathy Jernigan Ray Wlosinski were present. Ed Bergeron was present by phone. A quorum was present
- III. Additions to the Agenda- None
- IV. Introduction of Guests - None
- V. Approval of February 2020 Minutes - A motion was made by Tula Alexander to accept the minutes as presented and the motion was seconded by John Sutter. Motion passed.
  - a. Correspondence—None
- VI. Treasurer's report—Kathy reviewed expenses and income from June 2020. She indicated that memberships are coming in regularly.
  - a. Garage Sale – Kathy reported on a successful Garage Sale. Bev VanMeter donated many items left from her closed store. Items were priced to sell and some items which were left over will be used for upcoming chamber events. They made \$815.00 from this event. We Care will get two boxes full.
- VII. President's Report – Jan  
Jan reported that she and Kathy visited some St. Helen businesses to encourage participation in the latest initiative which will begin July 6. She also noted that Scotteez has purchased the inventory from Ink and Thread in West Branch and will be doing the trophies and shirts for school and other events.
- VIII. Standing Committee reports;
  - a. Membership: Kathy reported that many memberships have been renewed and businesses have commented on the payment plan which the chamber offered this year to assist with their yearly due's payment. Currently, a couple of businesses have taken advantage of this offer.
  - b. Grants: Tula reported that she recently attended that Park Board meeting. They discussed their proposed upgrades to the parks and surrounding area.
  - c. Raffles – Nothing new to report.
- IX. Old Business
  - a. Meet and Greet/August for all candidates on ballot – Jan would like to host a Meet and Greet for the Richfield Township candidates around the end of July. (All candidates on our ballot.) Each candidate would be invited to attend, discuss their platform and allow time for Q & A. It would be an evening event. Members discussed possible locations around the area and will subscribe to social distancing. Jan will look for an available venue.
  - b. Summer Blast Sales – Jan and Kathy. Reported above under President's report.
- X. New Business:
  - a. Softball Tournament – Kathy discussed this upcoming event which will take place on July 11 at the Township Park. Chamber will have items for sale and will raffle off a basket.
  - b. Golf Tournament – Ray met with John Decarlo from Birch Pointe Golf Course. It will be a scramble with a tentative date of September 27.
  - c. Fish Fry – Members discussed this event. Because of social distancing there is a chance it may not be held this year as the venue is small and by the time the capacity is reduced, it may not pay off to hold this year. Members decided that it should be a go. Ed suggested combining the Golf Tournament and Fish Fry this year but because it is a licensed kitchen, local fish cannot be brought in to the golf course kitchen.
  - d. Firemen's Memorial – Ray reported the ceremony has been canceled this year. He would like to facilitate a Family Night dinner. Discussion will continue.
- XI. Additional Items
  - a. Legislative – Ray reported on a discussion he recently had with Senator Debbie Stabenow regarding the frustration businesses are having with the federal Payroll Protection. Businesses are not receiving the monies they applied for. He understands the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of this program will be specifically for small businesses. He also spoke with Representative Rendon regarding a plan to possibly use Secretary of State/ATV funds to have a dedicated law enforcement person in this area. He also discussed getting the trails brined.

- b. Business Initiative – Kathy proposed that seasonal businesses in St. Helen not have to pay a full year of dues; perhaps prorate their dues according to the amount of time they are open. Members briefly discussed. The issue would be \$50.00 or less they would be saving.
  - c. Online Meeting – Ed reported that EMCOG will be hosting an online meeting on July 9 regarding Northern Michigan Strategies.
- XII. Adjournment – Ray made a motion to adjourn, Kathy supported. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Bawol, Secretary

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