

Main Street Chamber Board Meeting Minutes  
May 12, 2015

Members present: Amie Johansen, Bob Sadler, Greg Ptacek, Amy Christenson, Karla Organist, Jane Blumhagen, Dick Woodard, Carolyn Weber, Patti Heuton, Jon Biederman, Mike Johnson, Carolyn Weber, Melody Patrick and guest Darlene Strachan.

Bob called the meeting to order at 6:46 AM

I Approval of Agenda

Karla has addition, to add loan advance to the downtown Revit account. Amie moved and Jane seconded to approve Agenda as changed. Carried.

II Approval of Minutes

Karla moved to accept the minutes; Dick seconded. The minutes were approved.

III Reorganization

a) Update on West Union Community Development

Greg said he was unsure of the direction but reported that the groups do not want to curtail any effort of economic development and want to support within their budget constraints. On the city's part, there is no move away from supporting economic development. Greg's opinion is our economic development would be stronger if both organizations were combined, suggesting a fifth Main Street Chamber committee. Bob feels they need to keep doing their own work and not to add that on Jennifer. The idea is for them to report to the MS Chamber board, with representation on this board.

b) New Name

Mike Johnson did his homework and came prepared with a name suggestion. His suggestion is Community Connected. Greg recommends staying as is. No other creative names have been submitted. Karla moved to have a contest or something like that to find a new name; Amie seconded. It carried.

Darlene Strachan was introduced. She suggested we give Greenfield a call about combining groups.

IV Financial Reports

a) Main Street Financial Report

Main Street pledge revenue is good but still about \$6,000 shy. Greg says that even if all pledges come in as expected we will still be \$5,000 short. We will need to do a fund-raiser. Karla says MS owes money to Chamber for payroll, and says it needs to be invoiced.

Main Street Financial Report (cont.)

1. Approval of Pending Bills

Addition of rent to Echo Valley

Greg moved to approve MS financials; Carolyn W seconded. Motion carried.

2. Karla needs loan advance of \$2,003.88 and we need to pay Upper Explorerland bill. Carolyn W moved so; Amy C seconded. Motion carried. Both Karla and Greg abstained.

b) Chamber Financial Report

Mike Johnson moved to approve; Melody seconded. Motion carried.

#### V Questions on Committee Reports/Minutes (read attached minutes)

a) *Organization*: Echo Valley Ctr may be sold. This may affect our Dueling Pianos. Will be doing fundraisers, food stands on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Playin' On the Plaza, and at WU Stock.

Amie asked about having a parade entry.

We will probably need to do a pledge drive.

Need to continue with MS Minute and the newsletter.

Will be giving away a scholarship.

b) *Design*

c) *Promotions*: Discussed the Block Party. Melody suggested co-sponsoring Playin' on the Plaza with businesses.

d) *Business Improvement*: We have three applicants for the Open For Business competition: McJ's, Unionland, and Moonlight Stitching. Pitches will be presented on May 27<sup>th</sup>. One of those three will win \$200 and will move to the regional level.

Bob brought up a water issue Kevin Cline let him know about. There are cracks in Gus and Tony's building and water is getting into Cline's. Something should be done but how much responsibility is each owner needs to be figured out Greg suggested we get a bid, with MS bearing a part of the responsibility.

We are not yet receiving any money from Gus' building. Things need to be finalized. Jennifer will find the Purchase Agreement. Bob will oversee this process, and will find out if Mike Heins has a permanent fix for the water problem, rather than just a temporary fix.

#### VI Accreditation checklist with Darlene Strachan

Last year was a trial; this fall will be the "real thing." She explained the accreditation process, then addressed specific things related to MSWU. We are weak on Historic Preservation so she suggested doing something jointly with our county CLG.

Darlene will send us an example of Policies and Procedures for us to consider.

She suggested we adopt a Financial Policies and Procedures.

Darlene also suggested a 30, 60, or 90 day review of Jennifer as an employee. We had already scheduled a 60 day review.

Darlene presented a 76 Day Certificate to Jennifer; that's how long she'd been on the job.

#### VII Schedule for Annual Visit

Darlene's day after this meeting will include breakfast with our president Bob, a tour of West Union with brainstorming for the Fall Workshop. A noon meeting with the four committees over lunch at Gus & Tony's. She will meet with Jennifer from 1:30 to 4 PM. 4 PM to 4:45 meeting with City at City Hall. From 5 PM to 7:30 PM she will present Main Street Basics for the board and committee members.

#### VIII Other Business

There was no other business.

IX The next meeting will be on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 AM

Submitted by Patti Heuton