



CHAMBER/MAIN STREET BOARD MEETING

April 7, 2019 – 7:00 a.m.

Present: Sandy Klosterman, Jason Knox, Jamie Hoey, Bob Sadler, Garrett Crandall, Nick McIntyre, Cathy Harris (partial), Sam Whitehead (partial)

Absent: Chris DeBack, Mike Johnson, Duane Willhite, Adam Keller

Guests: Brian Roulson, NFV Senior

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:05 a.m. by Vice President Jason Knox.
2. Motion to approve the agenda by Bob; seconded by Jamie; approved by all.
3. Motion made by Bob and seconded by Jamie to approve the March minutes; motion carried.
4. After reviewing March financials, Bob asked about the script money deposit Sandy had handwrote on financials. Sandy will make the change in the computer to ensure the money is in the proper account. A motion to approve March financials made by Bob; seconded by Jamie; motion carried.
5. Fayette Co. Fair Booth- the Chamber asked to be in the Fayette Co. Fair sharing a booth with tourism similar to past years. After discussion, Sandy will share the booth and man it throughout the week for 15 hours at different times. Sandy will figure it out based on her schedule. Bob made the motion; Garrett seconded it; motion approved.
6. Delivering Meals to Elderly- NEI Area is looking for volunteers for Meals on Wheels. Instead of asking people to volunteer for another organization while we need volunteers, Sandy will share the request on Facebook and email alerting to the need.
7. FCED- Fayette County supervisors cancelling funding for Economic Development. Sam will no longer has a job due to this cut after June 30. RC&D is now looking to taking over Economic Development as Economic Development is not directly linked to Fayette County. Tourism still has funds and Carrie still has her position. Once the transition changes, we will look at having RC&D take the office that we current rent out to Economic Development. We will wait to hear more from RC&D and county supervisors. This as an opportunity for change and a new direction for Fayette County as a whole. As this is a new development, Sam shared that at this point, they are waiting for answers regarding tourism, future plans, how funding will affect partner organizations, etc.
8. Director's Report -
 - a) Senator Grassley's visit took place last month. He toured various locations and ended with a Q&A at the library. Sandy received a thank you from him and sent a thank you to them as well.
 - b) Senator Ernst's regional director will be in West Union on 4/10 and will tour Baumlers, lilac plaza, hospital, and school. Sandy is still working on Governor Reynolds and other legislators.
 - c) Newsletter- making updates to it.
 - d) Website- Sandy has updated the website with fun fact Fridays, photos, etc. If you see something, let Sandy know. Nick reports the city spent time with a UIU class and reviewed the website and layout. UIU gave some high-level feedback on ideas to update the website and are providing a template for them to use in place of the current website. This will be an entire new website.
 - e) UIU- students visited with Sandy and did a tour of downtown with positive interaction with businesses asking the businesses questions regarding current and future needs. They will compile information and present to Chamber.
 - f) Re-Designation Iowa Great Places- Nick visited with Mallory and will present a high-level vision to council on April 15 at 6 p.m. and to team members in the next week.

- g) Terry Poe Buschkamp from Main Street promotions will visit on April 10 at 5:30 to review events we have done with the Promotions Committee.
 - h) Visual Merchandising and Store Display Training- Main Street is offering training on visual merchandising. \$50/business to have their guru come and create a window display. Let's offer it to the businesses to see if we can get the 10 business required.
 - i) 10 people will be doing the Main Street Exchange with New Hampton and will be done by April 24.
 - j) Main Street state director Michael Wagler will visit May 6th and be present for the Tuesday board meeting to check-in and provide updates.
 - k) Fayette Co. Historical Society would like to partner with the Chamber on fundraising to provide help. Sandy will let them know we can do that based on dates.
9. Committee Reports
- a. Promotions
 - i. 2019 Work Plans- Divas & Dining sales are down. 4th of July and Playing on the Plaza are being worked on. Facebook events are helping spread the word and show interest. Can we have a BBQ vendor per week- maybe the winner from last year? Can we get beer during these? Nick will check into the possibility of selling beer/wine. Chamber does brats and uses that as a fundraiser to pay for Playing on the Plaza. If other vendors sell food, ask vendor to pay a fee. Can there be bags during the event as well? Discussion held having Top Hat/Alpheas hold bean bags.
 - b. Design & Business Improvement
 - i. 2019 Work Plans- Bob will be getting into the fields and Gail will be stepping down soon. Garrett would like some more information before taking it over. Sandy will get that to him. We have people to paint the fire hydrants once the designs are completed and reviewed by the city.
 - c. Community Development
 - i. 2019 Work Plans- a few members will be working on grants. DLO continues to move forward while looking at various grants. For now, the city will now move forward with improvements. Cobblestone Hotel requests a feasibility study. The fireworks guy wants 6-7k foot building space on the highway for sales so work continues to find a location that will work. West Union is not on Menards radar and Overhead Doors opens June 1st. The committee is looking into holding a presentation on Air B&Bs. Next meeting: May 3rd at the High School for lunch.
 - d. Organization
 - i. 2019 Work Plans- golf tournament date is June 22 or 29 in Clermont. We did look at Big Rock but it won't work this year, so we will look into moving back and forth between the two going forward. Haven't received any scholarship applications yet. Working on Dueling Pianos and will be starting to advertise with Early Bird sales. Review rental contracts soon. Comedy Night ever an option? Meeting today.
 - l) Discussion was had regarding the photo with board member investments. As we don't have all members to ensure everyone is included, Sandy will just deposit the checks at this time.
 - m) Meeting adjourned at 8:07 a.m.

Next meeting – May 14, 2019 at 7:00 am at the Chamber/Main Street office.

Submitted by Jamie Hoey, Secretary

MISSION STATEMENT

Investing in the community by bringing people together to achieve a support system that seeks to promote business success, downtown revitalization, and a sense of community pride.

VISION STATEMENT

Through Community engagement, create a unique and prosperous downtown to enrich the entire business community of West Union and beyond that embraces history, preserves natural environment, and promotes quality events that instills a sense of community pride.