

**Monticello/Jasper County Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors Meeting – December 4, 2014**

Present: Kathy Mudd, Skip Davis, Linda Simmons, Alma Abbott, Pam Mayer, Peggy Billerman, Angela Spivey, Lyndsy Holman

Absent: Mike Newton, Carol Ann McMichael, Wes Chester, Karen Degges

Welcome and Call to Order: Kathy

Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion by Skip to approve agenda with the addition of the January 22, 2015 monthly meeting added to new business, seconded by Angela and approved by all.

Motion by Peggy to approve November minutes, seconded by Skip, all approved.

Treasurers Report:

Regular checking account	\$33,502.03
Deer Dash	\$11,045.54
Chamber Bucks	\$ 655.01
Petty Cash	\$ 140.52

Motion by Skip to approve Treasurer's Report, seconded by Linda, all approved. P & L Comparison 2013/2014 was reviewed

Nomination Committee Report – Board members are needed to fill (3) one-year terms, (1) two-year term and (2) three-year terms. The following people have agreed to serve: Carol Atkinson, Tony Lewis, Dana Leach and Leah Dumas. The following recommendations were made by Angela:

- Three-year terms ... Tony Lewis and Dana Leach
- Two-year term ... Carol Atkinson
- One-year term ... Leah Dumas

Officers from 2014 will serve again in 2015

Annual Meeting Update – Dinner will be held at Frank's Restaurant, a theme was mentioned "Be a tourist in your own neighborhood". Committee will meet and finalize details.

Membership Drive – Membership Application has been revised ... dues structure discussed.

Citizen of the year – A new form has been created – will advertise in paper and on Facebook. Last year's Citizen of the Year will select a committee to review applications.

Board Retreat will be held on Friday, February 13, 2015, from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm at Turtle Cove

Forward Jasper – Skip provided information on status ... the Forward Jasper Steering Committee has requested that the Chamber take ownership of this effort.

The County Commissioners have asked the Chamber to host a Town Hall Meeting in January or February.

Discussion on January Board of Directors Meeting ... Motion made by Angela that the Annual Meeting on the 22nd would also serve as the monthly meeting, seconded by Skip, all approved.

President's Update - The website has been updated, however, access for some updates is limited and the cost to be trained by Madison Studios is \$150. Motion by Alma to approve the cost for training, seconded by Angela and all approved. President will email remaining comments to each Board Member. (See below)

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted December 10, 2014
Linda Simmons, Secretary

Signature/Date COC Chairperson

President's Update:

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS: Today from 5pm to 6:45. In the next newsletter, we will ask the membership about sponsoring the next after hour's social....with a goal of having them quarterly.

FIRST FRIDAY: The speaker is Ted McCloud from Bennett Cove (our new event facility in Jasper County) Friday, December 5th at 8am. Breakfast and meeting lasts one hour.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY: Was a HUGE success! Monticello News had a shop small insert and we set up and Shop Small Event on Facebook. The Visitors' Center was open from 9:30am-2:00pm. There were times the Visitors' Center was completely full...! The children had a coloring sheet activity area and were offered cookies and milk. They got to visit with Santa and received a complimentary photo. Sam Thornton was our Santa Claus (he is trading a fee for an annual membership of \$55.00) Benny Hawthorne took Santa Pictures (we are paying him \$100.00 – over 70 pictures were taken and printed so the fee is for the photo paper and ink supplies as well as his time).

SANTA PLEASE CALL: We are bringing this service back to the community. Tues 16th – Wed 17th – Thur 18th we will be calling children in the community. We have a "Santa please call" form that has been put in the Shop Small flyer, Monticello News, and Facebook. We are taking some forms to the kindergarten aged students. Wes has agreed to line-up the Santa's – they will come to the Visitors Center and place the calls from 6pm to 8pm. We will provide the Santa's with wings – chips and beverage while they place the calls.

SHOP LOCAL TREE: Carol Ann saw this idea and passed it on (she also donated the tree). We are filling the Christmas tree in the Visitors' Center with items from local businesses. The community is to bring their local shopping receipts in and enter them in the receipt box. One name will be drawn on December 23rd and they will win everything on the tree. The object is to get them back in the shops to spend money locally. STILL NEED ITEMS FOR TREE

NOVEMBER MEETINGS ATTENDED: I went to the RDC meeting in Athens this month with Commissioner Gene Trammel, Jasper County Development Authority David Dyer, and County Manager Karen Degges. Skip, Sage and I attended the Heartland Travel Association Annual Meeting in Madison. Also attended a Kiwanis meeting.

MISS GEORGIA USA 2014 – TIANA GRIGGS APPRECIATION DAY: The Chamber is one of the sponsors for this event. Saturday – December 13th. The program is from 3pm-4-m and autographs/photographs with light refreshments are from 4pm-5pm. As you know, Tiana is a native of Monticello - she will be presented the "key to the city".

QUICKBOOKS: The books have been brought up to date....waiting on the December statements to get all of the deer festival totals. Still not printing checks from QuickBooks – that is the next step.

WEBSITE: I have been updating the website with new material. I have the monthly calendar working better with a full calendar page and on the main page a ready reference to each day's events. I have left a message for Madison Studio (and emailed them) to help me with the featured photos on the main page, update the welcome, and change out the deer that says 48th annual. These three things are "hidden" in the script background when they set up the website - so they are going to have to advise me on how to update, or they will have to update. I have also asked them to help me make the link to Amazon charge/square active.

GIFT SHOP: We now have Georgia peanuts in the gift shop for sale. They are \$3.00 per can. We also have the Deer Capital signs for \$79.00. We are going to get local honey to sale, and local pottery. All the money received from sales will go directly back into merchandise.

BROCHURES: One of our volunteers organized and updated all of our brochures for the Visitors' Center. She has also sent requests out for updated materials.

STATS:

Deer Festival Facebook Page 1,064 LIKES

Chamber of Commerce Facebook Page 539 LIKES

November Newsletter. 149 were emailed and 76 reads. I forwarded about 15 newsletters to community leaders that are not members.

Visitors Center Sign In Sheet: We had over 200 people in the Visitors' Center this month. (Small Business Saturday, Overview utility assistant sign-ups, and there was an Angio-Screening)