

**Monticello/Jasper County Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors Meeting – February 5, 2015**

Present: Karen Degges, Linda Simmons, Dana Leach, Leah Dumas, Kathy Mudd, Tracey Nelson, Carol Ann McMichael, Tony Lewis, Stephen Soulen, Peggy Billerman, Carol Atkinson, Skip Davis, Pam Mayer, Tibia Williams-Banks, Lyndsy Holman, Mike Newton, Alma Abbott

Others in Attendance: Joan Bell

Welcome and Call to Order: Kathy Mudd

Invocation: Stephen Soulen

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion by Karen Degges to nominate Stephen Soulen to fill the unexpired term (1 year) currently held by Wes Chester, seconded by Skip Davis, all in favor.

Motion by Skip Davis to approve the December minutes, seconded by Carol Ann, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report: regular checking account balance \$29,475.57, Deer Dash account: \$10,144.91, Chamber Bucks: \$605.01, petty cash: \$94.57. Carol Ann noted that we now have an accurate P&L YTD comparison, provided all with a copy and also provided a copy of the 2015 Budget. Motion by Linda Simmons to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Tony Lewis, all in favor.

Old Business:

- Annual Meeting – had 121 reservations for the dinner, 119 actual attendees. Last year we had 73 attendees
- Membership Update – Currently have 77 membership entries and have taken in \$10,525.00. We have (7) Cornerstone Members
- BBQ Trail – Brews & Q's – Tourism promoting BBQ places and Breweries across Georgia. Chamber sponsored Dave's and Pop's to be listed in brochure
- Deer Festival update: Planning Committee – first meeting was January 8. Second meeting is February 5. Committee meets once a month from 6:00 - 7:00 pm at the Chamber. All Board Members are encouraged to attend.
- Community Conversation – The Commissioners would like for the Chamber to host an event for community members to come together to discuss

issues/ask questions/hear updates from Board of Commissioners.
Tentative date is March 19 from 5:00 – 8:00 pm at the Chamber.

- Chamber Board of Directors Retreat – February 13 at Turtle Cove Club House, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm - Bob Trouteaud will be the facilitator.
- Employee Evaluation – Executive Committee will meet at SCTC on Monday, February 9, at 4:30 pm to review evaluation tool.

New Business:

- Proposed date for the 2016 Annual Meeting January 14, 2016, at Charlie Elliott – motion by Mike Newton to accept the date/place, seconded by Karen Degges, all approved.
- Seuss on the Loose – March 7, 2015, at JCHS – Chamber will participate.
- Board Committee assignments: Discussion on Jasper Jubilee, an event on the square to promote local businesses. Motion by Carol Ann McMichael to support, seconded by Peggy Billerman, all in favor. Committee: Peggy, Ginny, Jackie Pate, Tony, Dana and David Leach, Pam, Carol
 - Policy Committee: Skip, Alma, Linda, Pam
 - Budget Committee: Skip, Mike, Carol Ann, Pam
 - Nomination Committee: Alma, Karen, Stephen, Pam
 - Golf Tournament: Stephen, Tony, Skip, Larry Perry, Don Kelly, Pam
 - Membership Committee: Lyndsy, Karen, Tracey, Skip, Pam
 - Farmers Market: Leah, Linda, Kathy, Pam
 - Annual Meeting: Tony, Tibia, Stephen, Pam
- Upcoming Events:
 - Business After Hours – March 5 hosted by Southern Crescent Technical College
 - First Friday – March 6 hosted by Ginn Chevrolet – Speaker Freddie Hays, DNR
 - Farmers Market – May 2nd – September 26th
 - Golf Tournament May 7, 2015
 - Deer Festival – November 7, 2015

PRESIDENTS UPDATE (2015: January 7 to February 5)

2015 ANNUAL MEETING - We had 121 reservations for the annual meeting and 119 actual attendees. (Last year we had 73 in attendance). Frank's Restaurant went out of their way trying to accommodate us – it was a pleasant experience

working with them. The divider in the room was a bit of a hindrance, but the membership seemed to be understanding.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – We had four nominations for Citizen of The Year. Three former Citizens of The Year, one Board Member, and one person who didn't know any of the candidates read the nominations. There were few suggestions from the readers to make some revisions on the application. 1. Include support letters instead of several nominations for one person. 2.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE - The membership drive officially closed on February 2nd. We currently have 77 membership entries and have taken in \$10,525.00. (\$6,550.00 in regular membership, \$3,500.00 in cornerstone membership, \$250.00 in deer dash sponsorship, \$200.00 in rotating banner ads, \$25.00 in pageant advertisement. The rest of February will be spent sending 2nd notices – visits to businesses – and looking for prospective new members. The seven Cornerstones are: Lewis and Malone Heating & Air, Monticello Family Foods, Bank of Monticello, The Monticello News, Oxford Heating & Air, Abbey Hospice, Representative Susan and Paul Holmes.

DEER FESTIVAL PLANNING COMMITTEE – The first meeting of the Deer Festival Planning Committee was January 8th. This committee will meet once a month. The Board of Directors are encouraged to attend as many of the meetings as they can. The first meeting was to get ideas, organize and set goals. The next meeting is February 5. The meetings are in the Visitors' Center from 6pm to 7pm.

STUFF THE WINDOW -The Jasper County Community Food Bank picked up the items from our January stuff the window campaign. Not only did we receive a lot of food, but \$535.00 was collected as well. Very well received in the community.

FIRST FRIDAY - Ginn Chevrolet is hosting the March 6th First Friday and our guest speaker is Ranger First Class Freddie Hays and he is the Jasper County Conservation Ranger with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for 22 years. He will give a presentation on the goals and the vision of the Law Enforcement Division (LED).

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS - Southern Crescent Technical College is hosting the next Business After Hours. Dr. Peters, President of the College, will be attending the

event and giving the community an update on the College. This will be held on Thursday, March 5th --- 5 pm to 7 pm. We will be offering a \$50.00 prize to someone in attendance. We will also do the promoting of the event. Invitation, article in newspaper, Facebook, etc.

STATS:

Monticello-Jasper County Chamber of Commerce Facebook Page has 575 likes...

- Citizen of the year post 1,600 views...399 post clicks 122 overall likes
- Stuff the window 271 views 19 post clicks 25 overall likes

Deer Festival of Jasper County Facebook Page has 1,109 likes

- Posted picture from 1980's 803 views...303 post clicks 37 overall likes

Visitors

- We had 221 visitors this month, plus some not accounted for (January 7 to February 5)

The farthest guests were from England

Board Comments: Several people welcomed new members and new members expressed positive comments. Mike informed Board about House Bill 170. Tibia thanked all for supporting Tiana Griggs Appreciation Day. Peggy informed Board about Reese Hall.

Meeting Adjourned

Submitted February 10, 2015

Linda Simmons, Secretary