

**Jasper County Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors Meeting June 5, 2014**

Present: Carol Ann McMichael, Linda Simmons, Sage Edwards, Kathy Mudd, Alma Abbott, Skip Davis, Cissy Benton, Angela Spivey, Karen Degges

Absent: Mike Newton, Lyndsy Holman, Wes Chester, Brandie Deraney, Lori Gray, Robert Ross, Dodie Proctor

Visitors: David Dyer, Deborah King, Michael Mustain, Malachi Safford

Welcome and Call to Order: Kathy

Invocation: Cissy

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion to approve May Minutes with a correction on the date of the First Friday Breakfast (6/6/14) by Carol Ann and seconded by Sage, all approved.

Motion to approve agenda by Angela and seconded by Linda, all approved.

Financial Report: Carol Ann highlighted the miscellaneous income amount of \$91.49 which includes t-shirt sales, building rent, recycle. Skip commented on the Golf Tournament and recognized Angela for her hard work in making this tournament a huge success. Profit of \$1034.46 on this event. **Motion to approve Financial Report** as presented by Linda and seconded by Angela, all approved.

Chamber Bucks will start back this summer.

Business

- First Friday Breakfast will be Friday, June 6, beginning at 8:00 am in the Dining Room at Turtle Cove. Jim Skinner will be the speaker. Deborah King invited all to attend.
- QR Code – Cissy is working on this, she will have completed this month. Requested it be ready for Deer Dash/Festival materials.
- Annual Meeting Survey – Feedback on this was very limited. It was suggested that another survey be sent at a later date. Will form a new Annual Meeting Committee at September meeting.

- Cell Phone/credit card processing – Skip has checked on Apple 4S - total cost will be less than \$90. Once we have a phone we will decide on a provider. All of this will be finalized by July 1. The Chamber will absorb the transaction fees for credit cards.
- Market on the Square – Averaging 14 vendors each week. Cissy asked for input on different food vendors requesting space at the Market. Do we want to limit them? Cissy will use her judgment on case by case basis.

Cissy will order name badges for all Board Members.

Committee Reports

- Membership Retention – Karen reviewed an insert on membership benefits prepared by the committee for membership packets. Carol Ann requested adding “Coffee Calls” and discounted tickets to events. The Board was in favor of this document. Motion by Skip to adopt this document with requested additions and Lyndsy’s final approval, Angela seconded and all approved.
- Deer Dash – Ready to send out applications as soon as we have a QR code
- Deer Festival – Art work for vendor application has not been completed yet, Skip will check with Brandie
- Carol Ann approached Tom Tucker with regard to using the lot on the side of the Tillman House for food vendors. He stated that the lot was for sale but did not offer to let us use it.
- Carol Ann working on the floats – requested (5) ... 2 for Chamber, 1 Abbey Hospice, 1 Get Ahead House, 1 Turtle Cove
- Cissy will check on who owns the vacant lot on the corner of the square and Hwy 16. Will approach owner with regard to using this space for food vendors; Karen will check with the Baptist Church on using their parking lot.

Public Comments

- David Dyer commented on Better Home Town and the Downtown Development Authority and the need to reinstate. Discussion followed ... comments/suggestions included applying for grants, getting commitment and involvement from Chamber members. Sage will make some calls on reinstating Better Home Town.

- David Dyer thanked the Chamber for existing industry visits and featured articles. Thanked Cissy for her participation in regional meetings. Commented on the need to focus more and more on small retail businesses.
- Malachi Safford – interested in painting artwork on storefront windows of empty buildings and would like to include Chamber members.
- Michael Mustain – promotion of his family’s business ... *Stars and Stripes* Restaurant. Grand Opening 6/14 3:00 pm

Board Comments

- Alma inquired as to the outcome of the County’s budget meeting
- Sage talked about the **City of Monticello Time Capsule** in the Visitor’s Center ... sealed 4/1/2006 to be opened 4/1 2056. **Would like to have a plaque made ... Cissy will order one.**
- Skip – Board members need to start going to other Chambers in surrounding communities to start the communication process.
 - Note to all ... going forward, the County will have a measuring instrument for our progress during the year with regard to continued funding for the Chamber.
- Cissy – Baxter International has committed to becoming a member of our Chamber, attending all joint developmental meetings

Next meeting is July 10, 2014.

Meeting adjourned.