

Monticello/Jasper County Chamber of Commerce  
Board of Directors Meeting – November 7, 2014

**Present:** Linda Simmons, Carol Ann McMichael, Karen Degges, Kathy Mudd, Skip Davis, Alma Abbott, Mike Newton, Pam Mayer, Wes Chester, Peggy Billerman

**Absent:** Angela Spivey, Brandie Deraney, Lyndsy Holman, Robert Ross

**Others in attendance:** Sage Edwards, Sheriff Donnie Pope, Capt. Mike Steele

**Welcome & Call to Order:** Kathy Mudd

**Invocation:** Mike Newton

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Motion to approve October minutes by Peggy and seconded by Carol Ann, all approved.

Treasurer's Report and Nomination Committee Report were removed from the agenda. Heritage Insurance was added to the agenda. Motion was made by Carol Ann to approve the amended agenda and seconded by Peggy, all approved.

**Deer Festival Wrap-up**

Pam

- Ten vendors did not show and over half of those in attendance packed up due to the weather.
- The support from Sheriff's Department/City/County was awesome.
- The new flyer for the 2015 festival is ready and we already have commitment from some vendors.

Capt. Steele

- No big issues, very proud of his staff. The biggest issue was a conflict between two dog owners and 3 dogs ... discussion on pet restrictions – possible animal control presence in the future.
- No gang activity – everything went ok.

Sheriff Pope

- Wind problems - commented on the need for very strong boundaries for crowd control during parade.
- Would like better coordination with the City and inmates responsible for clean-up ... possible check list and someone to provide direction. So many people/vendors were still present after cut off time and clean up could not begin until almost dark. Discussion followed concerning beginning/ending time of festival – Deer Festival Committee will follow up.

The following are comments/discussions regarding the Festival:

- Street Department – will have more supervision next year.
- Many problems with wind
- Suggested we allow vendors to bring their own generators (models with a specific decibel) because it would save the Chamber money. Renting a generator costs us more than we bring in for charging the vendors for electricity.
- Map of the square has to be redrawn to include changes that have taken place over the years (large trees, etc.), so that we can place vendors properly.
- Suggestions discussed with regard to placement of vendors, ensuring access to the sidewalks, etc.
- Deer Dash – We had 333 racers (\$7,000) sponsorships (\$4,500) Total income \$11,500 – Net \$5,173 after all expenses.
- Gun Raffle – sold \$3,930 in tickets – all profit because gun was donated.
- Pageant – Sold \$1100 in ads, \$600 in entry fees, very minimal expense. Several young people helped this year and they want to be more involved next year. Norton Manufacturing donated a \$500 scholarship for the Queen. Several people commented on including the Queen/Little Miss Fawn at different events during the year.

- “Deer Capital of Georgia” signs are here and will be put up as soon as possible. Sales at the gun raffle table went well.

The Chair led a discussion on sending letters to Chamber membership with regard to Heritage Insurance’s promotional materials. Skip made a motion to send letters to the membership but not to run an ad in the paper, Karen seconded and all approved.

A motion was made by Skip to hold the Annual Meeting on January 22, 2015, (place to be determined at a later date), Carol Ann seconded and all approved.

Annual Meeting Committee was formed with the following members: Alma Abbott, Skip Davis, Kathy Mudd and Pam Mayer. Pam will update the Citizen of the Year Form and add it to the December newsletter.

Membership Drive packet will be updated and emailed to the Board for approval. It will be added to the December newsletter.

### **President’s Update:**

Extra hours ... Both Pam and Sage worked additional hours in October with all of the activities taking place. Pam worked an additional 81 hours and Sage worked an additional 50 hours over the normal agreed upon working hours.

- Events: Two ribbon cuttings – Indulge Massage and Gifts, Jasper County High School Bio Tech Lab, Haunticello, Deer Festival, and two “use of square” weekend events on the square: Get Ahead House, Jasper Carrera Festival, and Greenwood Baptist Church Fish Fry with Methodist Church BBQ and Jonathan Bell Memorial selling tickets the same day.
- Use of Square: The Chamber is charged with keeping the calendar/schedule of the downtown square ... updating the use of square form and going to publicize rules and the fact the square has to be reserved for use.
- Use of Visitors’ Center/Meeting Rooms: The use/request forms are going to be updated and a charge implemented to use the space. The charge will offset the time it takes to set up the room, use of the tablecloths, and the overtime.
- Visitors’ Center: The Visitors’ Center has been rearranged. There will be a “store” to buy t-shirts and Georgia and/or tourist type merchandise. A volunteer has been given the task of organizing and updating our brochures as well as ordering new brochure materials. Working to get all the volunteers back and active again in the Visitors’ Center.
- Membership Drive: The membership drive will be promoted through the Monticello News, Constant Contact, Facebook, regular mail, and personal visits to prospective members. “Be A Part Of The Team”
- Website: The website has been temporarily updated – with the goal of a complete new look by the December Board Meeting.
- QuickBooks: The books are going to be updated beginning tomorrow (Friday – Nov 7th)
- Membership Newsletter: After each regular monthly Board meeting, a newsletter will be prepared and mailed to the membership...the goal will be to send it on the 10th of each month
- Stats: Deer Festival Facebook page has 1,030 likes and Monticello-Jasper Chamber of Commerce has 522 likes.

### **Proposed Event Dates:**

December 13, 2014 (Sat 9am-11am)

Breakfast with Santa

December 4, 2014 (Tue 5pm – 7pm)                      Holiday Business After Hours  
(Sponsors: Chamber–EDA–DDA–City-County)  
Community Band Concert 7 pm  
December 2, 2014 – February 2, 2015              Membership Drive  
January 22, 2015 (Thur 6pm)                      Annual Meeting  
(Social 6pm – 7pm – Dinner 7pm – Program 8pm)

Comments:

- Cora Whidby thanked all for the support of the Work Based Program at the school
- Mike Newton thanked all for the Chamber support at the Bio Tech ribbon cutting
- Skip Davis – special thanks to student volunteers and to Kathy Mudd for her leadership. Thanks to all for a successful Deer Festival. Additional comment: The Chamber is a 501(c)(6) and we are allowed to make a profit.
- Carol Ann – Thanks to Skip and Turtle Cove for printing programs for Pageant.
- Karen Degges – Requested a ribbon cutting at the Animal Control facility to highlight additions and improvements and also as an adoption event. The event is scheduled for Friday, 11/21/14, at noon.
  - Adam McGinnis inquired about the Chamber subscribing to the Georgia Outdoor News publication
- Sage Edwards – updated on the use of (4) empty buildings during Deer Festival and thanked Peggy and City for not charging for utilities, etc.

2:10 pm Skip made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Linda and all were in favor. A discussion was held concerning additional hours worked by Pam and Sage during October due to the many events.

2:20 pm Skip made a motion to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Peggy and all were in favor.

Skip made a motion to pay Sage Edwards for additional hours worked over her contracted hours during Deer Festival preparation ... 50 hours (\$500), and a supplement in pay for Pam Mayer, President, of \$1200 for Deer Festival. Motion seconded by Peggy, all were in favor.

Meeting Adjourned.

Submitted November 12, 2014  
Linda Simmons, Secretary

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Signature/Date COC Chairperson