

Chamber Board Meeting Minutes March 1, 2019

Present: Jim Brickley, Sharon Holt, Susan Pryor, Gabriel Smith, Tracy O'Connell, Nick Angeloff (by phone) and Barbara Vernot, volunteer.

Jim Brickley called the meeting to order at 12:03.

Nick reported that he had placed an order for new Christmas decorations which are discounted during this period from the usual price, and discussed future steps such as getting lights for the Eagle Prairie Bridge.

He said he is in communication with a group that wants to put an art installation at the chamber for a week in April or May which addresses the role medical cannabis has played in changing children's lives. It is called *Faces of Cannabis* and consists of photos of children whose stories are told in a book of the same name, which came out in December. Nick said the group organizing the exhibit needs \$7,200 to bring it here and would staff it. Nick is writing grants to bring the exhibit. There is a potential for wide media and other interest and attendance.

Gabriel moved and Jim seconded and all agreed to have the exhibit. Nick indicated he has spoken to the president of the Eagle Prairie Arts District about it because it involves art and the community and intends to attend the EPAD planning meeting the next day. He has also spoken to Natalya, the artist who shows her work at the chamber, about the need to take her work down when the other exhibit is up.

Information for those wanting to know how this book/exhibit came to be is at

<https://www.westword.com/slideshow/face-of-cannabis-exhibit-showcases-children-who-helped-cbd-movement-10840407>

In later discussion about the next quarterly chamber mixer, it was suggested that the chamber host it while the exhibit is in place, and build funds for the refreshments, etc. into the budget for the grants being sought.

Tracy O'Connell gave a brief overview of the finances and membership drive which Melissa is heading up.

Discussion included the potential of finding a renter for a portion of the building to share the rent, and the need to have a signed agreement indicating how many square feet of space, for how much money, and what would be included (heat, water, wifi, copier, office supplies, phone, trash?) and what would be the responsibility of the renter. Susan said she would look into sample forms that could be found at Staples' since others noted online versions existed but could be expensive.

Discussion included trash disposal, which Melissa has been handling herself in her truck; it was postponed for when Melissa was present to talk about that. It was suggested groups using the facility should provide their own garbage disposal, but also that people coming into the visitor's

center for information would bring beverages and other things and leave the trash behind, necessitating some trash removal.

Jim Brickley reported on the first chamber mixer, that it went well and could be helped in the future with a greater selection of donated items, which it was agreed takes a lot of work to attain. Susan suggested that the beer tasting glasses that had been procured for the beer festival in 2015 could be raffled off and/or sold at the chamber - there were a couple hundred that were in their original boxes in the back room, which were there a year ago but no one is sure where they are now.

Sharon reported on the work she and Nick had done to sort through the surplus Christmas decorations and she showed examples of some wreaths she made with cast-off materials which could be sold or given away in the coming holiday season.

She also reported on the Wildwood Days committee meeting held the night before at the fire hall. Several things had turned out well, but the 'silent disco' had not attained a following, and the kids' talent show was being discontinued. The mower/motorcycle races needed someone to run them who would deal with the insurance and other issues or be discontinued.

Discussion included area business happenings and other changes - Tracy reported Adam Dias is moving his business to the Avenue of the Giants so will not have a business presence in Rio Dell; Susan said there was action about reopening the former hardware store building in Scotia as a different type of business but that it, the Scotia Inn and St. Pat's church are in negotiations and/or escrow so nothing more definitive is known about them. Gabriel said product is being made in the containerized compartments at the industrial park, although the building there is not complete.

Susan moved and Jim seconded to approve the expenditure of \$50 in scholarship checks to both Rio Dell and Scotia schools to be presented to a graduating 8th grade student (or split between two students as the school staff prefers) for the June 2019 graduation. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Tracy O'Connell, Secretary