



Ephrata Chamber of Commerce
Board Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2015

Attendance: Deb Adams, Peggy Muchlinski, Alayna Lodi, Kevin Danby, Danielle Langley, Kerry Moser, Roger Johnson, Cory Pickeral, Ray Towry, Jeannie Olson, Cindi Harr, Annetta Paolinelli

Guests:

Call to order: 7:00 AM

1. **Presentation:** Seed Cupboard Nursery presented to the board their service to plant flowers in pots for the businesses in Ephrata as well as monthly care for the plants (feed, clip, look for bugs, etc.). Lisa and Joleen also expressed their interest in working with the Chamber and the City to get flower pots on the sidewalks downtown. Seed Cupboard Nursery has experience putting together these flower pots, as they did this for Othello and it has really increased the beauty and eye appeal of their town. The cost for planting and servicing of the pot is \$100 a year, the pot itself will cost extra. Lisa showed the board a couple of different pots she would be able to order and that would be attractive downtown. The cost of the large pot that would probably be most attractive downtown would be \$256. The pot will be from a rustic line, so the colors will not always be the same but they will all have the same style.
2. **Downtown Beautification:** Downtown beautification was moved up on the agenda to continue discussing the pots after the presentation ended. Ray reported that the Department of Transportation plans on coming in to remove the trees from the nulls on Basin Street and replacing water lines sometime in 2016. Right now, the question is “what to do with the trees that are being removed?” Ray stated that the Chamber should work with Parks and Rec, using them as an advisory board, and from there take our plan to the City. As of right now, no cement pots are able to be located, so pots would need to be purchased. First step to get this plan underway is to have a conceptual drawing of what we envision the pots to look like. This drawing will make it easier for Parks and Rec, and then the City to understand what our plan is and then look to see if funding is available for this project.
3. **Approval of Previous Minutes:** Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and approved.
4. **Profit and Loss:** The profit and loss was reviewed, highlighting the net income for the Auction was \$17462.42, which is about \$1000 less than last year. That \$1000 loss is contributed to lack of drink sales. Motion was made to have the cash position of the Chamber’s bank accounts presented at each meeting, motion was approved.
5. **Committees Reports**

a. **Ephrata Chamber Business Connections:**

- i. **Car Show-** The group is doing a good job of making sure that pledged money is actually coming in, so far money is being collected and the group is looking good financially. Still in need for volunteers the day of the car show to help with parking, selling raffle tickets, etc. Chris Harrison is still working on the treasure hunt idea to get people into businesses during the BSS Car Show.
 - ii. **TSB-** The advertising calendar is going well with advertising TSB on both Facebook and in the Grant County Journal. Danielle is giving a presentation this afternoon to the High School student to see if she can get 4-6 volunteers to help with the Chamber Books.
- b. **Basin Summer Sounds** – Money is slowly showing up, Walmart is donating \$3000 which is very exciting. Alayna sent out an email to move the meeting date to later in the month due to her being out of the office and having to catch up. Amy Dana has stepped up to help with gathering sponsorship money and getting hotels lined up for the performers. Kevin will be meeting with Midway tomorrow to discuss the beer garden.

6. Old Business

- a. **Lee Theatre Advertising-** A motion was moved and approved to not advertise at Lee Theatre due to trying to advertise to a demographic that is outside of Ephrata as to bring people into town.

7. New Business

- a. **New Chamber Members-** Our new Chamber members are: Sara Renee Photography, Columbia Basin Development League, and Ephrata Oil Change Express. Danielle has been in contact with Stephen at Pizza Hut to have them become members. Papa Murphy's and El Agave were mentioned as potential members to look into as well.
- b. **Voting in of New Board Member-** The board voted in Cindi Harr with BBSI as a new Chamber Board Member.
- c. **Chamber Copier/Fax/Scanner-** Danielle told the board that she had BIE out and discovered the copier does not have faxing capabilities. It also does not have a scanner, so all scanning has to be done at her home. Annetta mentioned that she would contact BIE to see if there is some break that they could give the Chamber to upgrade the copier we have. The board voted to get a copier/fax/scanner not to exceed \$200 in the event that BIE is unable to get a newer copier for a discounted price.
- d. **Treasurer Position-** Annetta told the board she is willing and able to stay on as Treasurer until she has to move. Kevin voiced consideration for the Treasurer position.

8. **Business After Hours:** The next Business After Hours will be on July 7th. At this time there is no location for the BAH. Ray mentioned that SplashZone would be open and we could have it there. Sara Renee Photography and Lee Theatre were also mentioned as potential spots. Danielle will make contact with the different locations and see who would like to host. October's BAH will be at the Nat Washington House with BBSI as the host.

9. For the Good of the Order:

- a. **Flag Alliance-** Danielle attended the Beezley Hill Flag Alliance meeting on April 30th. She reported that the lighted flag is about 10 years overdue for being replaced as the set-up is still the original from 1959. Currently the group has \$2912.33 with \$1707.10 allocated towards the repair/replacement of bulbs and wiring. Need to have quite a bit more in order to replace the flag. Once PUD has an amount they will let the committee know. May have to do a fundraiser. The star and the cross used to be taken care of by the interchurch counsel but it is unknown if that group is even in existence anymore so Flag Alliance voted it in to maintain the star and cross as well.
- b. **Reader Board-** Danielle submitted the Paul Lauizer Grant request for a new reader board. She was able to find a reader board and cost of instillation that would be around \$17,000, much less inexpensive than previously thought. The Chamber will receive notification in June if they received the grant.

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 AM.