



Chamber Board of Directors Meeting

July 13, 2023

(Meeting held in person and via Google Meet video conference)

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

● In Person:

- Board Members: Brent Newkirk, Gordon Grohmann, Mel Beverlin, Erik Olson, Kathi Vandel, Sarah Hoffman, William McQueen, Lorri Stanislav
- Non Board Members: Angela Buckle with Red Barn Farm, Rachel Wood with Bristol Manor
- Via Google Meet: Victoria Campbell

Call to order – Brent Newkirk Time: 5:41 PM

I. Additions to the Agenda:

- Reassessment of Main Street businesses - New business (Brent)
- Chamber office and public restrooms - New business (Brent)
- T-shirt sales - New business (Brent)
- Proposed schedule of meetings and new plan for reporting - Bi-Law Reviews / Amendments (Brent/Mel/Lorri)
- Huge Property Tax Increase downtown Weston - New Business (Gordon)
- Amended office hours for the next month. Office Operations. (Victoria)
- Michael Bless - Payment - . Office Operations. (Victoria)
- Historical Walking Tour - Update. Office Operations. (Victoria)
- Bristol Manor Introduction (Brent) - They are a 12 bed house. Residential care facility, Level 1, for elderly citizens.

II. Approval of July Agenda - **Sarah moved, Erik seconded, all approved.**

III. Approval of June Minutes - **Sarah moved, Erik seconded, all approved.**

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT - \$3,878 Gift card, \$53,995 Tax Acct, \$13,084 Operating, \$7,500 Savings. The City is caught up with their "payments" to us from the Sales Tax revenue. In 2022 the tourism tax Jan-May was \$41,901. In 2023 Jan-May \$29,810. ...Erik moved, Sarah seconded, all approved.

V. Bi-Law Reviews / Amendments:

- **Proposed schedule of meetings and new plan for reporting - (Brent/Mel/Lorri). A meeting was held and discussions were had. The By-Laws state that we only need to meet quarterly, not monthly. The committee chairs would report on their activity at the quarterly meetings. No decision was made to make that change. Branding changes could be made, because we provide more than just a "Chamber of Commerce".**
 - **Membership will be due 90 days. If not paid, they will be removed**
 - **Budgets will be presented every quarter**
 - **Annual Meetings will be more timely**
 - **Empower the committees instead of having the Executive director getting involved**
 - **Many other changes could be involved if we make any changes at all**
 - **Lorri will share the notes from the meeting with the Chamber board**

VI. NEW BUSINESS: Astronomical Property Tax Increase downtown Weston

- **Reassessment of Main Street businesses - New business (Brent) - It's a disaster. City officials have met with the county, but the only thing we can do now is protest the appraised amount. Hopefully the Mill Levy's can be adjusted. The important thing is to keep pressure on the county and city to reduce the tax amount.**
- **Chamber office and public restrooms - New business (Brent) - The Mayor called Brent and said the city is offering the Chamber a \$1.00 per year for a 20 year lease. Brent asked if the restroom can be included. The upstairs tenant would become our tenant. We would need to consider the maintenance cost. The board is interested, but we want to know all the costs and parameters.**
- **T-shirt sales - New business (Brent) - We have an opportunity to sell Weston t-shirts to the public. A committee will be formed to put together a Weston swag of all kinds. William and Victoria will meet.**
- **Proposed schedule of meetings and new plan for reporting - New business (Brent/Mel/Lorri)**

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- **New contract from City of Weston - Update - Lorri sent it to Mel and he will look at it. - No Discussion. The sub-committee finalized a response, and will be sent over to the board. Lorri**

gave the highlights of our response: They want a larger percentage of the sales tax money, we offered an alternative; Any event over 50 people would have a “usage fee”. They want a Voting member on our board, we said no. We would propose to be involved with the city to help them fund raising. We will hold off because it may be changing again.

- 2023 CPA Chamber of Commerce - Joyce Burch is going to see if her husband can help. Jim Stansislof will help with payroll. - Joyce’s husband will be contacted. (?) Mel said we need to extend our return and he will contact our CPA for the paperwork. Jim will file the return. **Extension has been filed. No one has contacted Mr. Burch. Lorri will contact him.**
- Winter and summer banners - [Lorri Stanislav](#) - This has been changed to Veterans banners. Lorrie will attend all required meetings for approval. Advertising for banner purchase has already begun and will continue. Local families will buy the banners. The friends of Weston will be paid for installing them. The dates that the banners go up will be established and lead by Lorri for scheduling. - **Converted to the Veterans Banners. Lorri and Erik will be in charge of the banners, when they go up and taken down. The banners will be kept at Erik’s business. - Veterans banners are getting a good response, and the hope is that we’ll have more. We also discussed having a generic Winter banner. Lorri will follow up with the Winter banner. Veterans Banners are going well.**
- QR codes - Historic Buildings with plaques - William McQueen - The museum is on board but has to go to the historical committee to make sure they’re on board. Lorri and William will attend the meeting - Lorri went to the meeting. **The Museum loved the idea! Lorri found a company that can make a plaque that will include the QR code for each building. Lorri will look into a Grant to pay for all the plaques. - William reported that the museum is on board, and this project is proceeding. Lorri is going to look into a grant to pay for the plaques. This is proceeding.**
- Merchant Sampler Card - Lorri: Holly from La Bella Cucina had an idea of a “Bingo Card” or some kind of visitor card to encourage visitors to go to multiple stores. A number of stores have noticed that they have customers who only go to their store. Several ideas were presented by Lorri. The board was very interested. Lorri will come back to the next meeting with more ideas. - Lorri showed a sample of a “Bingo” card for merchants, to be discussed at the Annual Dinner. **It will be paid for by merchants who participated. Lorri is going to meet with Holly to put it together. No update.**

VIII. MARKETING: Meeting every two weeks to work on marketing the upcoming events.

The committee is letting Chamber members know what the committee is marketing to.

Social media: **Tic Toc has several videos about Weston locations. Weston will be featured in the AAA brochure publication, about 640,000 members.**

- Billboard at Fort Leavenworth has been changed over. **The officers' school has many new students that will be visiting.**
- More than Main Street:
- PR updates:
- Ribbon Cuttings:

IX. CHAMBER EVENTS

	Chamber Events	Date:	Chair:
1	Bigfoot Search	Sat, April 22	Mel, Victoria, Lorri
2	Weston Roots Music Fest	Sat, Jun 3	Victoria, Erik
3	Plein Air Painting	Sat, Jun 3	Jeff, Sarah
4	Juneteenth	Sat, June 17	William
5	Independence Day Celebration and Parade	Sat, Jul 1	Gordon
6	Annual Dinner - William and Erik talked to Holladay. Lorri talked about Green Grass Cattle Company location where a new restaurant. Lorri suggested BFD (breakfast for dinner) as an event space. No date has been set	August	Erik and William
7	Applefest - Meeting now. 96 apps for vendors. They settled on 75. 20 food vendors. Maybe moving the stage.	Sat, Oct 7 & Sun, Oct 8	Mel, Brent, Victoria
8	Weston Holiday Open House and Tree Lighting Tom may be in the Mason's building for pictures instead of walking around. There was also discussion about doing more at Christmas including Carolers.	Sat, Nov 18	Lorri, Kathi
9	Historic Candlelight Homes Tour	Sat, Dec 3 and Sun, Dec 4	Lorri, Kathi

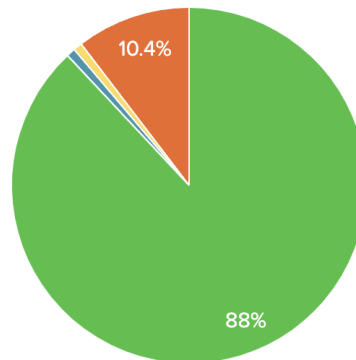
X. NON CHAMBER EVENTS

	Non Chamber Events	Date: Date	Chair:
1	Weston MO Moonshiners Cruise -	Every 4th Sat of the month (5pm)	Stan Taulbee
2	Weston Testical Festival	Sat, May 6	Weston Tobacco
3	Polish Pottery Festival	Sat, May 13	Renditions
4	WineFest	Sat, May 20	Pirtle
5	Weston Area Wide Garage Sale Weekend:	Fri, Jun 2. Sat, Jun 3	Weston Chronicle
6	Flag Retirement @ City Hall)	No date yet	Contact Scouts
7	Cheers to Cheese - looking good!	Sat, Aug 12	Green Dirt Farm
8	Weston Tobacco Fest	Sat, Oct 14	Weston Tobacco
9	Weston Bluffs Trail run 5K/10K	Sat, Sep 30	Kate Jones
10	Chainsaw Carving in Weston	No date yet	Backroads Art
11	Whiskey Fest	Sat, Oct 28	Weston Tobacco
12	Trick and Treat	Tues, Oct 31	
13	Peachfest	TBD (August)	Orchard
14	Small Art Festival	Sept 9th and 10th	Artists Gallery

XI. CHAMBER MEMBERSHIPS:

Current paying members	110	88.0%
Accounts on lifetime/one-time billing	0	0.0%
Accounts on free membership	1	0.8%
Accounts with no renewal date	1	0.8%
Accounts past due	13	10.4%

Annual Recurring Revenue
(current paying members)
\$13,190



XI.a New members: NA

XI.b Memberships past due:

West Platte School District	Brock	Dover	doverb@wpsd.net
Hull Lumber Do It Center	Derek	Franklin	hulllumber2@gmail.com
Norman Landcraft, Inc.	Paul	Norman	norman63@embarqmail.com
Reece Nichols Weston Bend	Dan	Ovaitt	dovaitt@reecenichols.com
Vaughn Funeral Home	Scott	Vaughn	vaughnfuneralhome@yahoo.com
Holy Trinity Church	Steven	Rogers	swishon@ht12.org
Mid-Continent Public Library	Rachel Lee	Rafuse	rrafuse@mymcpl.org
National Silk Art Museum	John	Pottie	silkartmuseum@gmail.com
Weston Methodist Church	Kim	Kirby	office@westonumc.com
Blue Jay Nutrition	Brianna	Johnson	bluej.nutrition@gmail.com
Beers to You Saloon	Nyree'	Tabaka	nyreet75@gmail.com
Ella Mae's Creamery	Ame	Taylor	emcfoodtruck@gmail.com
Miller-Donelli Agency Inc.	Chris	Donelli	chrisd@mdinsagency.com

XII. OFFICE OPERATIONS -

- Amended office hours for the next month - Victoria is out for another two weeks. Most days are covered. Merchants will be helping too.
- Michael Bless - Payment for many additional hours in the office. Will be discussed in the closed meeting.
- Historical Walking Tour - Update - It's going live on the Web Site tomorrow.

XII. Open Discussion – Limit 5 topics, 3 min per topic:

- **Scholarship checks need to be paid. Mel needs the names, also to get a photo with them.**
- **William suggested getting the Main street stores to be open on Monday holiday's**
- **William also suggested a Miniature Golf tournament where each store would have a hole.**
- **Have a meeting with all the downtown merchants. Meet on August 1st with all the Merchants to talk about being open more and how to communicate with each other.**

XIV. Chamber Report at Board of Aldermen Meeting - Lorri went.

Adjourn – Brent Newkirk Time: 7:52 PM

Next Meeting: August 10, 2023