

**New Haven Area Chamber of Commerce
Board Meeting
2-23-23
5:15 PM
Dos Bros Mexican Restaurant**

Members in Attendance: (10)

President, Elizabeth Bennett, VP, Steven Sullivan, Meg Lang, Sue Viehland, Debbie Winters, Christie Groppe, Clare Swann, Trisha Reay, John Berger, Laura Shockley.

Not Present: Tara Steffens

President Elizabeth Bennett called the meeting to order.

Secretary's Report: John Berger motioned for approval of January's minutes. Laura Shockley 2nd. All approved.

Treasurer's Report: Pastor Steven Sullivan motioned for approval of January's report. Christie Groppe 2nd. All approved.

Old Business:

● **Candidate Forum:**

- Questions went out to the candidates via email on 2-22-23.
- Ward 1 will go first. Ward 2 will follow.
- 3-5 minutes per candidate to answer questions.
- Public questions will follow.
- A booth will be set up at the door for people to fill out a question on note cards.
- Pastor Sullivan will provide the PA system

● **By-Laws:**

- The approved bylaws were updated and sent out via email to all BOD.

● **Lawyer Update:**

- We are officially a 501c6
- Elizabeth is working on our tax-exempt status.
- The lawyer will create a 501c3 for us as well to help with more opportunities for grant money. Pastor Sullivan motioned for approval of the creation of a 501c3 status. John Berger 2nd. All approved.

● **Membership Guide:** No update at this time.

New Business:

- **Social Media Policy:** All suggested changes will be submitted via email.
 - Elizabeth recommended everyone use/create a gmail account to have access to the Chamber Drive.

- **Sponsorships:**
 - We may create a possible listing of past/potential sponsorship opportunities and split them up between BOD to reach out to.

- **Website Update:**
 - Clare is 75% done with the makeover.
 - She needs good pics-is waiting for nicer weather to take new ones. Will use old ones until she can replace them.
 - She has been researching other chamber websites across the country for ideas.

- **Fundraisers/Events:**
 - Main focus on (3) upcoming events:
 - **Awards Banquet (March 9th)**-Theme: Gone Fishin'. MaryLou will do a fish fry. We need more nominations

 - **Spring Fling (April 22nd):** Smoker is reserved at Save-A-Lot, Pepsi trailer is reserved. Will order all food from Save-A-Lot.
 1. Megan will send out volunteer sheet.
 2. Jeanne Damschroeder (Central Hotel) has agreed to take phone calls and keep list of yard sales.
 3. Lydia Shockley will do the map for us.
 4. We decided to get 15 dozen donuts from Casey's and pass out to yard sales as a "compliments of the New Haven Chamber"

 - **Miller's Landing Day (May 27th):**
 1. Fireworks: Getting quotes from Wald Displays (did it last 5 years), Spanish Oaks Farms, and J&M Displays have quoted us at \$6,000.
 - Fundraisers for fireworks:
 - Masks & Mimosas (April 16th) 11-1pm & 2-4pm
 - Murder Mystery Dinner
 - Sand Volleyball Tourney at June 4th Farmer's Market
 2. Boogie Chylds Band will be our headliner at 7pm before Fireworks

- **Marketing/Fundraising:**
 - Elizabeth is working on the marketing.
 - Meeting with the city and Downtown New Haven Inc to discuss options for tourism

- **Budget/Finance:**
 - Will be meeting to form a budget for Miller's Landing Day
 - Christie Groppe and committee will be performing a 2022 audit within the next week.

- **Economic Development:** Part of a 10-year city plan
 - Elizabeth would like to send out a poll/survey for an assessment of the community to see what is top priority before moving forward.
 - The committee for ED needs to be very diverse.

- **Items from the Floor:**
 - We were invited by Grace's Place to participate in an Adult Spelling Bee on April 1st.
 1. Most of us were not available, however, John Berger motioned that we buy a table for \$200 anyways to make a donation. Christie Groppe 2nd. All approved.
 - We received a donation request from United Way. Previously we have donated \$300 to the cause. Laura Shockley motioned that we donate \$300 again this year. Christie Groppe 2nd. All approved.

Christie Groppe motioned to adjourn. John Berger 2nd

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Meg Lang