

**New Haven Area Chamber of Commerce
Board Minutes
April 27, 2023
Location: Pinckney Bend B&B 5:30pm**

Present: Elizabeth Bennett, Steven Sullivan, Laura Shockley, Tricia Reay, Megan Lang, Laura Kohlen, John Berger, Christy Groppe. **Not Present:** Clare Swann, Tara Steffens, Debbie Winter

Secretary's Report: Report was read by Secretary, Meg Lang.

John Berger had some questions about the minutes regarding the statement about the removal of ex-Treasurer and Director, Sue Viehland. The minutes stated that Sue had been removed from the Board, however, he did not recall a vote to remove her. His main concern is 1. To follow our bylaws, and 2. Concern about ruining ties with Citizens Bank who is a vital part of the community and brings a lot of volunteers.

President Elizabeth Bennett, Finance Chair Christy Groppe, and VP Pastor Sullivan agreed that since the chamber had been technically dissolved by the State of Missouri under Treasurer Sue, that her resignation as a Director was assumed at the same time as her treasury resignation after the audit, and therefore, there were no bylaws to follow.

The BOD asked Secretary, Megan Lang, to make the following amendment to the April 3, 2023 board minutes:

Strike statement "Sue Viehland was removed from the Board of Directors."

Correction: "Sue Viehland verbally resigned as treasurer and Board of Director at the 2022 audit performed by the Finance committee. President Elizabeth Bennett asked Sue for a written resignation, which we have yet to receive. Elizabeth then sent a letter to Sue at Citizens Bank letting her know that her verbal resignation was accepted, and thanked her for her service."

John Berger motioned for approval of amended minutes.

Christy Groppe 2nd. All approved.

Treasurer's Report:

President Elizabeth Bennett read the most recent report in the absence of Treasurer Debbie Winters.

501c6-Checking Acct Balance: \$9654.30

Savings Acct Balance: \$9420.29

501c3-\$25.00 Balance (start-up cash)

Elizabeth let the BOD know that our square account is officially up and running. People can sign up online for memberships, donations, and vendor fees. It will be attached to our website, once it is finalized.

Christy Groppe motioned for approval.

Laura Shockley 2nd. All approved.

Old Business:

- **Meetings:** John Berger and Megan Lang addressed concerns by members that we are not having frequent membership meetings to keep the members informed, as well as a chance to give them the opportunity to be heard and volunteer.
It was agreed that we would incorporate quarterly membership meetings. (Need vote?)
- **Gmail Accounts:** Once our website is fully converted, we will all have our own gmail accounts associated with the chamber.

New Business:

- **Bylaws:** John Berger asked that we date the bylaws once approved in order to keep track of the newest edition. Megan motioned for approval of the amended bylaws. Steven Sullivan 2nd. All approved.
- **Handbook:** This was tabled until everyone had a chance to read it over. Christy Groppe motioned for approval. John Berger 2nd. All approved.
- **Events & Fundraising Committee:** Megan motioned that we move the fundraising aspect of this committee to the finance committee. Steven Sullivan 2nd. All approved.
- **Chamber booths at Events:** President Elizabeth suggested that we come up with a standard food menu for all events (waffle ice cream sandwiches, caramel apples), except for the Balloon Glow, which will be pulled pork nachos. Meg Lang commented that the Balloon Glow event could be a huge money maker for the chamber if a few volunteers from the chamber would help prep and cook the meat as opposed to hiring someone (Lang-A-Tang) to do it for us. Steven Sullivan agreed, and offered to help with prepping/cooking.
 - Elizabeth reiterated to the Board that we all need to volunteer on behalf of the chamber at these events, as well as our own booths.
- **Scholarship Winners:** Received \$500 each
Jessica Underwood & Caitlyn Jones

Committee Updates:

Events:(Meg)

- **SpringFling:** We are waiting on the invoice from Save-A-Lot to see what our profit from the Spring Fling BBQ will be. Deposited: \$1529.84 from Sales. Sold out by 12:45pm. There were 24 garage sales signed up. Meg thanked everyone who could volunteer.
- **MLD:** Meg passed out the volunteer sign up sheet. She will post it on our members Facebook page to offer to the membership as well. She will also reach out to Sharon Strubberg with 4H about volunteers for trash pickup on day of. We have sold nearly \$200 in raffle tickets for the Gary Lucy print. Tickets will be sold at the info booth until 4pm the day of. We will also have a donation jar set up. A 50/50 raffle will also be sold that day.

Budget & Finance Committee: (Christy)

- Strubberg's called and said that we need to reinstate the old chamber with the state for tax purposes because we filed 990 taxes for 2021-2022 while we were not active. Then we will re-dissolve that chamber at the end of 2023. Strubbergs will file all of the paperwork, and our lawyer will reinstate us. Christy Groppe motioned for approval. John Berger 2nd. All approved.
- Once we have tax-exempt status, we will be able to sign up for grants with the MO Arts Council.
- Christy is checking with the MO Chamber to see if there is a free version of Quickbooks for Chambers.

Marketing & Tourism: (Elizabeth)

- New website will merge with the old one on either 4/27 or 4/28.
- Steve talked on KMOV last week for 45 min about all things New Haven, and what the chamber has coming up.
- Visitor Guide: The Hermann Visitor gave us an article along with our ad this time. Elizabeth wrote about our historic riverfront town.
- Lodging Tax: Elizabeth would like for herself and Marketing Chair Clare Swann to go before the Board of Alderman to see if the newly passed lodging tax can go through the Chamber for marketing and tourism of the town. John Berger motioned for approval of going before the BOA to ask for lodging tax funds. Christy Groppe 2nd. All approved.

Economic Development: (Elizabeth)

- Elizabeth met with Alderman Rustige and his wife Pat to discuss being on the committee. Others she has reached out to include Mayor Addison and Business owner Stephanie Gutierrez. The first step is to build the committee and then decide on what the first phase goals will be.

Steven Sullivan motioned to adjourn.

John Berger 2nd.

Minutes Submitted by:
Secretary, Megan Lang