

Monmouth Business Association Minutes

May 6, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 12:02 pm, May 6, 2020 via GotoMeeting.

People in attendance: Miriam Haugen, Suzanne Dufner, Marilyn Morton, Kevin Raschko, Bill Foster, John Bracken, Jeanette Moore, Russ Cooper, Kathleen Mason, Sabra Jewell,

Introductions: Each person introduced themselves and mentioned a positive and a challenge that they were experiencing as a result of the crisis.

Approval of the March meeting minutes and financial statement was postponed until the next meeting.

Russell Cooper gave a presentation about the storm water fees that are being considered by the Monmouth City Council. Other cities in our region have a fee that is added to water bills for storm water. Monmouth currently pays for maintenance of the system out of funds designated for streets which comes from gas taxes from the state.

Benefits of having a separate fund for storm water include better accountability for how the storm water dollars are being spent. Also it will free up the street fund to care for aging asphalt and sidewalks.

Right now the city is getting feedback from citizens. The plan had been for the council to vote on it mid year with implementation by October. That timeline is up in the air now due to the current crisis.

Fees would be attached to the water bill and for businesses would be based on the square footage of impervious surface (roof and paved parking lot.)

For more information, people can go to:

<https://www.ci.monmouth.or.us/pview.aspx?id=41263&catid=552>

Or email questions to rcooper@ci.monmouth.or.us

Music in the Park – Bill Foster reported that we are waiting to hear whether we can hold the concert series. It looks likely that parks may not be open to larger gatherings until at least the middle of July. If there is a government order that we cannot have our event, that lets us out of our contracts with the bands but if we cancel the entire season now and the restrictions get lifted, we could be liable to pay the bands.

Miriam Haugen is exploring the possibility of holding “drive in” concerts in the west parking lot of the University as an alternative.

Covid-19 Survey – A group of local leaders (IDA, City of Independence, MBA, City of Monmouth, Chamber, Sedcor, Chemeketa SBDC, City of Dallas) has been meeting to discuss best ways to help our local small businesses and share ideas. From that meeting a business survey has been developed so that we can plan how we can best help. Miriam Haugen and Suzanne Dufner will continue to work on this and report back to the group.

Donation to Food Bank Motions

Moved, seconded, carried: MBA will provide an opportunity for friends and neighbors to contribute to local food banks and coordinate efforts.

Moved, seconded, carried: MBA will match community donations up to \$500 from the general fund.

Miriam appointed John Bracken and Kathleen Mason to formulate the plan for and execute this fund raiser.

Announcements

Chamber – Have been busy painting and rearranging the space for the new visitor’s center but opening will be delayed until travel restrictions are lifted.

City of Monmouth – City Manager search is on hold due to the crisis. One of the finalists expressed reluctance to leave their current position in the middle of the crisis. Chad Olson will continue as the interim.

The Tractor Supply store is finishing things up and should be opening soon. The new Roth’s store is expected to be open by July 4. Although Barn and Branch has closed, a new store will be opening in its place called The Collection on Main.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.