

Monmouth Business Association Minutes

June 3, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 7:35am, June 3, 2020 via GotoMeeting.

Attendees: Miriam Haugen, Suzanne Dufner, Kevin Raschko, Bill Foster, John Bracken, Jeanette Moore, Kathleen Mason, Sabra Jewell, Trina Horsey, Jeff Rose, Jason Saunders, Sandra Paoli, Susan Fuller, Emily McNulty

Introductions: Each person introduced themselves.

Motion to approve March and May meeting minutes made and carried.

Financials: Kevin shared the financials. 1st Donation to food drive was received. Not much else to report. Motion to approve the financial made and carried.

Music in the Park – Bill Foster reported that Music in the Park has been cancelled for this year. A formal letter will be sent out to bands. The bands have been asked to carry over to next year's schedule. 2 bands have already agreed. New contracts will be sent out. This will help us preserve funds for next year, rather than try and come up with a different strategy for this year. This announcement will be posted on Music in the Park and City of Monmouth facebook pages.

Food Bank Donation – John and Kathleen will work to get information disseminated to the community and local businesses regarding donating to the local food banks. In the meantime, a motion was made and carried to go ahead and donate \$500 to the food bank now.

Monmouth Business Survey – A business survey was disseminated to local businesses to assess how they are doing and what needs they have as a result of the COVID 19 crisis. Suzanne presented and shared the results of the survey. The results were also shared with the City Council. Results attached in separate document.

Holly Tangeman has stepped down as MBA liaison for city issue. Jeanette Moore has agreed to step into this role.

MBA has purchased masks for small businesses. Contact Bill Foster if you need any. Supply is limited, but still available.

Cities of Monmouth and Independence received a \$45,000 grant from Business Oregon to provide assistance to local businesses with 25 employees or fewer. Each city must help match the funds so a total of \$90,000 will be available. Funding opportunity is geared towards businesses who have fallen through the cracks and not received any federal funding. Businesses owned by women and minorities will be targeted. City of Monmouth has also approved

\$60,000 to be used for low interest loans for local businesses. Any business can apply and will have more flexible requirements. Part of the city match for the Business Oregon funding is coming from the city's \$60,000 loan program. So after the Business Oregon Funds are spent (\$18,000), the City of Monmouth will have \$42,000 to lend out. More information will be available on the city website soon. The city is also working with Independence and Dallas to explore other options to help small businesses.

City has approved a new position to help Suzanne around economic development.

John has hired a new staff member who specializes in marketing. There may be opportunity for other businesses to utilize his services. We may want to have an opportunity for him to do some training for small businesses and look for opportunities for businesses to cross promote.

Emily and Suzanne will talk with other city departments about the possibility of having some additional seating options (picnic tables) available in Main Street Park. Will also explore ideas for additional lighting in the park and on main street to enhance the ambiance of Main Street area and downtown.

Announcements

Chamber – Has office space available for rent. Contact Kathleen for more information.

City of Monmouth - City has been working with owners of Odd Fellows lodge to try and activate the space. New City office hours are 10-1pm.

WOU – Commencement will be taking place on June 10th. There may be a possibility to have Wolfie help with some promotion as businesses start to reopen.

MaMere's Guest House – Just installed a new little LEGO library. Members were invited to come check it out.

Meeting adjourned at 9am.