

Monmouth Business Association Minutes

August 5, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 7:32am, August 5, 2020 via Zoom.

Attendees: Miriam Haugen, Suzanne Dufner, Bill Foster, John Bracken, Trina Horsey, Jeff Rose, Kathleen Mason, Kate Schwarzler, Emily McNulty

Introductions: Each person introduced themselves.

Meeting Minutes: Motion made and carried to approve July meeting minutes.

Financials: Motion made and carried to approve the financials.

10 Tuesday Promotion: Not a lot of participation by local businesses. There is no end date. Emily will send a reminder email every Monday.

New Student Feed: New Student Feed cancelled. Trina said WOU is having success with newsletter mailings. Might be an opportunity to promote businesses. WOU will have a hybrid approach for types of instruction – should know more in mid-August. Miriam will explore advertising options with Laura Welcome. Trina suggested looking into tabling options – she will explore what might be available. Bill suggested looking at a downtown sidewalk sale. Kate suggested businesses that aren't retail could host a pop-up business on their site. Could be tied to \$10 Tuesday and a special promotion for the university. Perhaps WOU musicians could play on the corners of streets for student event.

Music in the Park: Reaching out to bands to see if we can schedule for next year.

Mask Distribution: Businesses can pick up masks from chamber. Some have been passed out already to Monmouth Businesses by the Chamber, with the help of Washington Federal. City can have some on hand to share with businesses picking up PPE when it arrives. Miriam will help pass out. MBA masks are all gone – 500 were distributed.

Masks signs have been developed in English and Spanish and distributed too. Motion made and carried to pay “At Screen Printing & Design” \$150.00 to cover the graphic design for posters.

We will work hard to get approval for any money prior to purchasing. COVID presents a unique situation, so may need to vote via email or have executive team make decisions.

Beautification of Downtown: Send any ideas you have to Emily. At a standstill right now until we come up with a good plan.

Mid-Willamette Weddings: A group is meeting regularly to promote Monmouth/Independence as a wedding destination. Still small for now, but looking to grow and develop a website to help with marketing.

Announcements

MI Chamber of Commerce

- Next Wednesday is Greeters and will be outside at the Chamber.
- August 20th is the Thirsty Thursday at community Services Consortium in their garden.
- Independence Cinema ads are now available.

City of Monmouth

- The grant & loan program has rolled out. 3 awards have been made and 1 is pending. Additional funding may be available.
- Businesses need to contact city before putting tables/chairs on sidewalk. City is open to blocking side streets. Just need to talk with them about options.
- More information will be provided soon about availability of PPE.
- Storm Water Fee is moving forward. Still opportunity for public comment before ordinance is adopted by City Council.

WOU –

- Fall sports have been postponed for GNAC. WOU is hoping it they will be rescheduled for the spring.

Businesses -

- MaMere's has an office space available for rent.

Next meeting is September 2nd.