

Minutes, MBA Meeting of August 4, 2021, held at Rick's Place Coffee House

In attendance:

- Miriam Haugen, President
- James Martin, Vice Pres (remotely)
- Nicki Marazzani
- Sabra Jewell
- Bill Foster
- Suzanne Dufner
- Kevin Raschko (remotely)
- Jeff Rose
- Tori Stutzman
- Ashley Terry
- Marilyn Morton (acting secretary for this meeting)

Meeting was called to order by Miriam Haugen at 8 AM

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. Bill foster moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting, Jeff Rose 2nd, motion passes unanimously.

The financial report was reviewed. Jeff Rose moved to approve the financial report, Nicki Marazzani 2nd, motion passed unanimously.

Outstanding funds yet to be deposited: \$1,072 from “pass the hat” and a Music in the Park sponsorship from Cherriots.

Reports:

Miriam Haugen gave an update on Quest. Some adjustments have been made to approve the program, and it is ready to go.

Suzanne Dufner reported on the Main Street program – MBA is at the exploring level and has a (very enthusiastic) letter of support from the City Council. There is no fee to join and low commitments at this level. Suzanne will be MBA's liaison to Main Street and is planning on attending an October training.

WOU New Student Orientation –Tori Stutzman produced a great flyer showcasing eateries in Monmouth Independence. This event, said Suzanne, is an introduction to new students of Monmouth and its businesses.

Destination Western is an early onboarding program for about 200 students. Suzanne said the city is working on an event for them involving coupons for food

business “taste bites”. They are also working collaboratively with Independence. The event: September 12, 4-7 PM.

Sabra Jewell reported that WOU has a new flyer for the New Student Feed called “Welcome to Monmouth-Independence Celebration”. The date is September 21st. The week of the 20th is New Student Week. The feed is set to be at Main Street Park. Ideas and comments about this event were shared, including cost of insurance, music, vendors, etc. At this time, interested vendors should contact the Chamber of Commerce.

MBA representative for the Chamber Board (appointed position). Suzanne Dufner nominated James Martin (who has agreed to serve), and Jeff Rose 2nd the nomination. The motion passed unanimously.

Back-up taker of minutes as needed: Marilyn Morton volunteered to undertake these duties when Emily McNulty was unavailable, and the MBA board accepted.

Music in the Park. Bill Foster reported that the attendance has been good. More giveaways are needed for the balance of the season. Three groups have paid for tables at the event. Help is often needed for set-up and take-down of peripheral items.

Committee Reports:

Website: Tori Stutzman reported that the website is in good shape.

Social Media: Sabra reminded everyone to keep tagging MBA in your posts.

Membership & Outreach: Nicki, Suzanne, Emily McNulty, and Sabra have met on this. They are working to enrich MBA’s partnership with the Chamber. Welcome packages will be created for ribbon cuttings with information from MBA, IDA, the Chamber, and WOU, along with resources for new businesses in the community. The committee suggests more in-person meetings, supports a smaller MBA fee, but for a fee MBA must also communicate value. MBA needs more business participation.

Meeting Location for September 1: Rick’s Place. There was a discussion about possible reader board use to announce the meeting.

Announcements:

Chamber:

Hearts Compass ribbon cutting August 10 at 4 PM

Greeters, August 11 at Indy Commons, 8:30 AM

Thirsty Thursday, August 19, WOU tailgate party, 5:30 PM

City:

There's a new grant opportunity through Willamette Workforce Partnerships for businesses negatively impacted by COVID. Application closes August 31.

Monmouth is conducting a survey on bike-ped-roll on Highway 99. Follow the link on the city's website. Survey closes August 13.

The Electric Scooter program kicks off in mid-August. The scooter provider still needs a license; scooters are for street use (in bike lane, with a helmet), and there are 30 designated parking spaces around town. An equipment manager is supposed to collect dropped scooters daily and reposition them for new use.

Marilyn discussed a meeting with Marty Wine to help in any way possible with Monmouth volunteer possibilities. Also, she needs site hosts for the 2021 Ghost Walk in Independence. She reminded everyone that local businesses receive free advertising in 2C1C, published monthly online.

Miriam Haugen adjourned the meeting at 8:56 AM