

Meeting of the Monmouth Business Association, 10-6-21, 8 AM, via Zoom

In attendance: Miriam Haugen, Sabra Jewell, James Martin, Jeff Rose, Marc Miller, Bill Foster, John Bracken, Sherry-Marketing Director for Curves, Phyllis Bolman, Suzanne Dufner, Nicki Marazzani, Marilyn Morton

President Miriam Haugen **opened the meeting** at 8 AM.

Minutes of the previous meeting: *James Martin moved to approve the minutes; Jeff Rose 2nd, motion passed unanimously.*

Treasurer's Report: Kevin Raschko delivered copies of the treasurer's report to members. Balance in treasury: \$12,842.86. *James Martin moved to approve the treasurer's report as delivered; some discussion about outstanding costs not included on the treasurer's report; Jeff Rose 2nd, motion passed unanimously.*

New local businesses: Elote Veloz (food truck by Burgerville), Luke Town (food truck at Dry Town), Beauty Leaf Incorporated/Nikua Skin, Circle K (formerly the Shell gas station).

- Discussion about an official MBA welcome to new businesses. The president invited member(s) to take on welcoming new businesses. There were no volunteers at this time; this subject will be added to the planning meeting at the beginning of 2021.
- Please, if it's convenient, make an informal welcome to these new businesses.
- Suzanne Dufner and the other members of the membership committee are working on a welcome packet.

Report on Welcome to Monmouth-Independence Celebration (New Student Feed):

- It went well, beautiful day, well attended by about 321 students who checked in. We did not feed all attendees; there was leftover food that was well received.
- Nikki Marazzani reported on the finances: Including cash donations from 2 participants, MBA paid for containers, food, health certificate, at a total cost of \$271.75. This was under budget. There were 23 tables at the event, with 18 paying and 5 non-profit or organizers' tables. Sponsors: City contributed \$250; another donation of \$100 was made. Table fees received, \$480.

- All bills have been paid. Roth's donated water; US Chefs made a donation that covered containers. Bi-Mart gave a gift card that was unused and available for a future event.
- Next year perhaps MBA should solicit a title sponsor.
- Being in the park rather than on campus was a bonus, along with use of the amphitheater.
- Weather could be an issue.

Halloween (James Martin):

- Difficulties: WOU students are doing a candy give-out around 8 PM. That may push time for businesses. WOU is limited in space and no room for a significant number of businesses participants.
- James' suggestion for this year is to skip the formal event this year and look forward to next year when Halloween is on a Monday night.
- Some businesses are planning informal goodie giveaways from 3-6 PM on Halloween. This will not be an MBA sanctioned event. It was determined that social media and word of mouth is adequate "advertising."
- Nicki suggested that "MBA is postponing it's organized event until 2022, but meanwhile some local businesses are looking forward to seeing trick-or-treaters downtown. John Bracken agreed. MBA came to consensus that this was an appropriate action to take, and an informal announcement will be made on social media.

Making Spirits Bright/Small Business Saturday (Suzanne Dufner):

- We did lose our former event organizer, Susan Fuller, who moved away. There still appears to be community interest in continuing that event. Anyone interested in participating please contact Suzanne. Traci Weston of Fee-Mail Depot suggested having a tree display, with businesses each sponsoring a tree. She is doing some work seeking interest in participating in such an event.
- Dallas, Monmouth, Independence and the Chamber are working together on a shop-local gift card that businesses can sign onto; these gift cards will be sold to community members. More information to come. This program has been very successful in other communities.

The presentation by State Senator Deb Patterson will not occur today. It may happen in the future.

Committee Reports. The chairman called for committee reports:

- Website (Bracken, McNulty, Dufner): Suzanne reported that the Committee has met with Tori Stutzman of Sparklet Design. Business directory is being used to locate businesses on the website; most hits were on the calendar for Music in the Park. City has linked to the MBA website, and Nicki has linked the MBA website to the Chamber. MBA has a contract with Sparklet Designs; the initial \$500 in funds authorized to pay for these services, and those funds have now been exhausted for the year. The committee proposes
 - \$150 annual web hosting
 - Servicing and general maintenance \$300 (2 hours every 2 months= 12 hours total/year)
 - Total annual of \$750.00
 - Period of service: November 2021 to November 2022
 - Discussion
 - ***Bill Foster moved to approve the \$750 in funds for web service (with an addition to the motion to designate period of service. Nicki 2nd, motion passed unanimously.***
- Social Media (Jewell, McNulty): *None at this time*
- Membership & Outreach (Dufner, McNulty, Marazzani): *None at this time*
- Events: *None at this time*
- Music in the Park (Foster, Raschko): Thank to the city for all the help on Music in the Park
- Welcome to Monmouth-Independence Celebration (Glodt): Addressed above
- Halloween (Martin, Obrist): Addressed above
- Making Spirits Bright/Small Business Saturday: Addressed above

Announcements:

- Miriam Haugen: Santa Experience is happening.
- Phyllis Bolman: Sunday after Small Business Saturday is “Artist Sunday”, managed electronically. More information to come.

- Suzanne Dufner: Monmouth is kicking off a downtown improvement plan to revitalize streetscapes and sidewalk area best use, bike racks, street trees, building facades, and wayfinding. Institute of Policy and Engagement from U of O was hired to do the work. Working on business/volunteer involvement. Would like MBA representation on that committee. Estimated 6 meetings through July 2022. Please let Suzanne know of your interest by October 15.
- Chamber, lots to report:
 - Meetings with Sen. Deb Patterson and conducting business interviews.
 - October 13th, 8:30 AM, Morning Greeters hosted by Cherriots at Volunteer Hall
 - October 18th is the next Polk County Women in Business Group
 - October 21st, 5:30 PM, Thirsty Thursday at Thoughts and Gifts Project.
 - October 28th, Sabra Jewell teaching class on social media at MaMere's Guest House – limited to 12 participants.
- WOU (Sabra Jewell): It's Homecoming Week with lots of events.
- James Martin: Going to a Pirate Festival in Kennewick. He has a 2nd location in Newport, "Pirate's Plunder Mall" by the aquarium – it's all about pirates.

The president **adjourned the meeting** at 8:50 AM.

The **next meeting** will be Wednesday, November 3, 2021, at 8 AM.