

Meeting of the Monmouth Business Association, 11-3-2021, 8 AM, via Zoom

In attendance: Miriam Haugen, James Martin, Jeff Rose, Marc Miller, Bill Foster, Phyllis Bolman, Suzanne Dufner, Emily McNulty, Kelly Carmichael, Jeff Glodt, Tori

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

Introductions by all attendees.

Minutes of the previous meeting: Bill Foster made motion to approve the minutes with “appears” typo corrected. James Martin 2nd. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report: Emily McNulty moved to approve the treasurer’s report as delivered; Jeff Rose 2nd, motion passed unanimously.

Officer Nominations: Elections are coming up for the coming year. The following nominations were made:

President – Miriam Haugen

Vice President – Tori Stutzman

Secretary – Emily McNulty (as long someone is willing to help with minutes)

Treasurer – Kevin Raschko

Main Street Project (Emily McNulty/Suzanne Dufner): Emily, Suzanne and Nicki attended the Oregon Main Street Project Conference. Many ideas and lessons learned were shared. Conference highlighted collaboration and resiliency. There are opportunities for support and guidance from the state. The MBA’s 2022 strategic planning session should include some discussion on the Main Street Project.

2022 MBA Strategic Planning (Miriam Haugen): Sheri Stewart from Oregon Main Street will help lead our discussion in person. It will be Tuesday, January 25th at 8am-10am. MBA will provide food and WOU has offered to host us. This could be an opportunity to recruit new businesses to attend. We should think about how to name and market this session.

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

- There are lots of fun events coming for Making Spirits Bright including:

- o WOU Tree Lighting and Parade
- o Caesar the No Drama Llama
- o Fire Department Chili Cook Off
- o Carolers
- o Passport to prizes (opportunity to win great prizes from local businesses!)
- o Business & Resident Light Decorating
- o Holiday Book Sale at the Monmouth Public Library
- o Kids Crafts with Ash Creek Arts Center at MaMere's
- o Gingerbread Village Light Displays in Main Street Park
- Emily McNulty made motion for MBA to sponsor \$500 for Making Spirits Bright. Bill Foster 2nd. Motion carries.
- 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.

Valentine Event (Miriam Haugen): Small group is exploring a Valentine's event. Stay tuned for more information.

Committee Reports. The chairman called for committee reports:

- Website: Tori continues to make updates to the website and is building out a page for Making Spirits Bright.
- Social Media: We will be using MBA social media to help promote all the Making Spirits Bright activities. Please help share.
- Membership & Outreach: None at this time
- Events: None at this time
- Music in the Park: None at this time
- Welcome to Monmouth-Independence Celebration: None at this time
- Halloween: Looking forward to next year!
- Making Spirits Bright/Small Business Saturday: Addressed above

Announcements:

- Chamber: Thirsty Thursday and Greeters are coming up.
- City of Monmouth:

- o City offices will be moving out of the current building on November 29th.
- o Police Chief Recruitment listening session coming up.
- o Polk County has a new round of COVID funding available for businesses who have NOT received funding yet.
- o Watch for more information about the Polk County Community Card – an e gift card that can be used at a number of businesses throughout Polk County.
- James Martin: James is getting interviewed by the Oregonian. Watch for the article.
- Emily McNulty: Just a note about wanting to find ways for the MBA to help support efforts to continue to focus on beautification of downtown. No real ask or ideas – but seems like something we could help support to create a positive “vibe”.

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

The **next meeting** will be Wednesday, December 1st, 2021, at 8 AM.