

MONMOUTH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES

February 1, 2023

Monmouth Public Library

Meeting was called to order by Tori Stutzman at 8:03 am.

Welcome New Businesses

Ash Creek Art Center, Judy Maule and Gabby Dingus-Rice wants to make art more visible in our community.

Sandra Paoli, Windermere, she sells houses.

In attendance:

Tori Stutzman, MBA President	Phyllis Bolman, MBA Secretary
Miriam Haugen, MBA Past President	Gwen Whelton, MBA Communications
Sabra Jewell, City of Monmouth	Suzanne Dufner, City of Monmouth
Ellen Osborn, Ash Creek Nativities	John Bracken, Crush Wine Bar
Sandi Paoli, Windermere	Mandy, Sing Fay Restaurant
PJ Armstrong, MINET	Mike Irons, Mungo Design
Bill Foster, Cascade Management	Kevin Raschko, Columbia Bank
Gabby Dingus-Rice, Ash Creek Arts	Judy Maule, Ash Creek Arts
Nicki Marazzani, M-I Chamber	Marilyn Morton, 2C1C

The meeting attendees introduced themselves.

Celebrations & Announcements

- City

Suzanne Dufner reported that February is the kick-off of Love Local which gives people a discount off their utility bill.

There are updates to zoning code for commercial and industrial zones. On February 15, 2023, the Planning Commission will hold a hearing and the City Council will hold a hearing on March 21, 2023.

Marketing Mondays – free business marketing class to learn about different ways of marketing. Sponsored by Monmouth and Independence with ARPA funds.

Sabra Jewel - the Town Hall was successful with a great turn out. Save the date for March 10 for the ribbon cutting for the trolley at PCFD #1. The City now has a podcast called Monmouth Monthly and KMUZ will air it.

Phyllis Bolman reported that the City of Monmouth Arts & Culture Commission, in conjunction with the Library, had a very successful art show.

- Chamber

Nicki Marazzani - Greeters will be held at Monmouth Power & Light, Thirsty Thursday will be at the Thoughts And Gifts office and Women In Business are scheduled this month.

Ballots for awards for the MI Chamber awards are available and the State of the Cities address will be held at Independence Event Center on February 28, 2023 at 11:00 a.m.

A pancake breakfast is held monthly at the Monmouth Senior Community Center and will be this coming Saturday.

Awards dinner April 18th. Awards show and movie.

Ribbon cutting for Sing Fay and Girlfriends Place

- More

Gwen announced that PCL having their awards banquet for PCL support people.

Marilyn reminded everyone of the deadline for 2C1C for March edition.

Miriam stated that University Community Communications group meets Ricks Place at 4 pm today.

PJ from MINET stated they have their first customer in Rickreall.

John reported that Crush will have a four course meal for Valentine's Day.

Mindy reported that Sing Fay reopen February 7, 2023.

Approval of December 7, 2022 meeting minutes:

Gwen moved to approve the minutes. Miriam seconded. Motion carries.

Approval of Financial Statement

Kevin Raschko discussed the financials. Suzanne asked Kevin if there would be a column for the Main Street Program. Nicki moved to approve the financial statement. Gwen seconded. Motion carries.

Strategic Planning: Subcommittees report and breakout groups

Membership: Sabra said the committee discussed the fee structure and membership requirements including the benefit and value added.

Design: Ellen stated the focus was attractive, inclusive, successful spaces to draw visitors downtown. Maintenance, historical and heritage. Appropriate designs placemaking, what sets us apart and what makes us special. Listed other. Focus for coming year, paint the electrical boxes. Phyllis noted that, unfortunately, P&L will not allow it.

Promotions: Miriam noted their goal was promote downtown Monmouth as a downtown destination with varied and interested. Listed current events in the downtown.

Economic Vitality: Suzanne reported they are looking at ways to strengthen and enhance our business environment. Suzanne, Kelly Carmichael and Jeff Glodt on the committee. Downtown Improvement Plan and Covid recovery business assistance.

Committees will have breakout sessions and will report back at the next meeting.

Events for the Year:

July 4th

Music in the Park

History & Mystery in Monmouth

Welcome to Monmouth and Independence

Halloween Spooktacular

Making Spirits Bright

Raising Additional Funds: Gwen stated that we need to raise some capital to replace the sound board, and other items. She said that she will send out a survey to get ideas on how to raise more capital.

Adjourn: 9:08 am