

September meeting minutes amended on 10/15/22 by Emily McNulty with feedback from several meeting attendees.

Minutes, MBA meeting of 9/7/22, held at the Monmouth Library

Attending: Miriam Haugen, President; Bill Foster, Cascade Management; Nicki Marazzani, Chamber Director; PJ Armstrong and Jason Saunders, MINET; Ella, Student Intern; Suzanne Dufner, City of Monmouth; Phyllis Bolman, City of Monmouth; Tori Stutzman, Sparklet Marketing; Sabra Jewell, WOU; Kelly Carmichael, Ash Creek Auto Glass; Justin Sunada, WOU; Mike Irons, Mungo; Emily, Polk County Tourism Alliance, via Zoom; Lacey from Curves; Rebecca Salinas Oliveras, Monmouth City Council; Raquel Moore-Green, candidate, via Zoom; Marilyn Morton, 2C1C (acting secretary for this meeting)

Meeting was called to order by Miriam Haugen at 8:10 AM.

First time attendees were welcomed, and new local businesses were noted. Prior to beginning meeting business Miriam explained voting procedures.

Eligible voters are those who have a business or organization that does business within the city of Monmouth; further future discussion may be warranted.

The minutes of the September meeting were reviewed. Bill Foster moved to approve the minutes, Nicki Marazzani 2nd, motion passes unanimously.

The financial report for month was reviewed. Bill Foster moved to approve the financial reports, Kelly Carmichael 2nd, motion passed unanimously.

Report from the Outreach Committee, chaired by Sabra Jewell:

A concern was brought up ahead of the report requesting we NOT vote on membership proposal today. Members need time to review proposal.

The Committee suggests an annual membership fee of \$75, payable at the 1st of July each year. If the plan is approved by MBA, 2022 membership fees could be prorated. Suggested eligibility for membership to include:

- Brick and mortar businesses physically located in Monmouth
- Home Businesses with Monmouth address/PO Box
- Non-Profit organizations with a Monmouth address/PO Box
- Businesses/organizations who do business in Monmouth

Members would receive priority highlighting on the MBA website and social media, and advertising at signature events along with voting privileges.

Members would be contacted to determine preferred contact methodology.

No volunteer hours are required from members, but are always encouraged.

Sabra will send out the written proposal to all MBA recipients for voting consideration at next meeting.

There was discussion about membership eligibility, leadership and management of MBA, alignment of MBA Bylaws and the Outreach Committee's proposal, and the role of current Executive Committee (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) within membership body.

Bi-Mart stores in Monmouth, Salem, and Corvallis now carry WOU t-shirts.

MBA thanks Paula Baldwin of WOU who was instrumental in this progressive step.

Music in the Park, report by Chair Bill Foster:

- Thanks to Kelly Carmichael for great help this season. Kelly estimated that 160 volunteer hours were committed to this event. Other volunteers were thanked, more are always encouraged.
- Thanks to the city of Monmouth for its support
- Mark Fancey will no longer book/recommend bands; that role will be taken over by Suzanne Dufner for 2023. Many bands have already asked to return next year.
- This was a very good season, drawing many people from out of town
- Compliments from guests included:
- Liked the bands and that there were no cover bands
- Appreciated the clean area
- Appreciated the attentive and prompt maintenance
- Bill attended last evening's city council meeting to give a report on Music in the Park
- Sponsors and other MBA events were regularly promoted at Music in the Park
- Average attendance was 200-225; there were 450 at the final concert
- Public Works will be removing the banners and banner racks

Welcome Celebration, September 20.

Thirty-six tables are sold so far, there is still space. Students will be playing a bingo game (i.e., passport) and additional prizes are being sought for "blackouts". Salem Health is sponsoring a DJ for the event. Smith Fine Arts will do a dessert table. Servers and volunteers are needed, please help if you're available.

History & Mystery in Monmouth, September 30

Posters were distributed that include a QR code linked to event information. September 30, 7 PM.

Halloween

Lacey described the organization of the event, including opportunity for non-downtown and between-the-towns businesses to participate. There will possibly be a store front and pop-up decorating contest. An event poster will be available soon. Event insurance in general was discussed.

Hispanic Celebration at Main Street Park, September 24

Rebecca described the event that is September 24, 12-5 PM. Lots of fun things happening, including music, dancing, food, story-telling.

There will be a Dia de los Muertos celebration

at the Senior Center. Dia de los Muertos begins at midnight on Halloween night and goes to November 2nd. It is a time to remember loved ones who have passed.

Making Spirits Bright

Suzanne and Emily McNulty are working with The Sippery in Monmouth to create Monmouth Merry Market. Activities will gravitate toward businesses and pop-ups to be more weather-protected. The WOU Tree Lighting is Friday, December 2. Saturday, December 3 begins Making Spirits Bright, likely a week-long celebration. Please share your ideas and become involved as a volunteer.

Chamber announcements:

- Today is ribbon cutting at Habebah Restaurant; tomorrow is one at Ashley Sews
- September 14, Greeters at Thoughts & Gifts Project
- September 15, Thirsty Thursday at MaMere's
- September 17, 200 runners expected at Oregon Hop Run
- September 19, Women in Business, Main Street Emporium, Dallas
- September 20, Welcome to M-I Celebration
- September 22, New Member social on the rooftop of Independence Hotel

City of Monmouth announcements:

- October 1 is the MANIT Celebration. The President of the Marshall Islands will be present. Local business booths are welcome.

WOU Announcements:

- Welcome Back Fall Sports. Football and Soccer are both starting. This Friday is a tailgate party for soccer; at 4 PM Friday the coaches are having a meet/greet at Rookies.

- Opportunity Fair, Friday, September 23. This is a great place for businesses to seek employees, interns. Get connected through the Handshake communication system.
- Wayne Hammersly celebration of life is tomorrow.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 AM