**West Liberty Business Association Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, December 9, 2021 at Liberty Gathering Place (LGP) 7:45am**

**In attendance**:  Mitch Lingrell, President (LT’s Uniquities), Linda Vernon, Vice President (Vernon Farms), Katie Neer, Secretary (Solomon’s Garage and Neer & Farm), Molly Toth-Thompson, Treasurer (Design Scribe), Tami Cox, Member at Large (Country Friends), Jill McKelvey (WL Mayor), Jayne Griffith (West Liberty Village Council), Shannon Reese (Small Nation), Jeremy LeVan (LeVan's Excavating), Emily Walters (Logan Co Chamber/Visitors Bureau), Chris Jones (Jones Country Store)

**Minutes:**

* Mitch called the meeting to order.
* Katie read the November minutes which she previously emailed to the membership. Mitched moved to accept the minutes, Tami seconded.
* Molly shared the Nov and corrected Oct P&L Statements. (See attached.)
* Jeremy LeVan came to represent the Country Legend Concert Series and explain how the WLBA could be involved as a General Sponsor. He also shared there would be six acts like last year, but two stages this time alternating performances. WLBA could opt to set up a booth to sell soda as well. WLBA can also auction or raffle off their tickets they receive in exchange for sponsorship. Linda stated the Events Committee would consider these ideas for next year. It was decided for Molly to go ahead and write the check for the WLBA to sponsor the event.
* Jill shared an update from the Village regarding updating downtown buildings and encouraging owners to fill empty spaces. She is working with Shannon Reese and Ben Vollrath with the Chamber to learn of grants available to match funds building owners put into commercial buildings downtown. More updates are hopefully forthcoming. The Village is also considering implementing a Commercial and Civic Beautification Award similar to the award presented to residents.
* Jill shared that WHIO Channel 7 came to West Liberty for their 7 Sees Your Town segment. They spent time at the Town Hall, Marie's and LT's Uniquities.  This feature will air Dec 15 at 11pm and Dec 17 at 5pm.
* Jill provided an email from Jason Duff's Friday Small Talk. Please subscribe to his email list if interested.
* Linda Vernon reported on behalf of the Events Committee. Linda shared that they are still planning on Bus Tours April thru September and the Summer Fest will be held June 24-26. She provided the contact info for the couple that puts on the Hillclimb to help with the car show in conjunction with fireworks and other festivities that weekend. Jill asked that the Events Committee consider extending that event till June 29, which will be the 60th Anniversary of the Sherman Ricketts shooting and there will be festivities at the parklett.
* Jill shared that the Mary Rutan Foundation has donated $4000 for the water bottle filling station at the Sherman Ricketts parklett. Jill shared an example map of Indian Lake that could be replicated for West Liberty to be available to cyclists using the bike trail. It would fit easily in ones' pocket.
* Jayne reported on the Columbus St Bridge Project. ODOT has invited the committee to apply for the TAP Grant to get the bridge reopened for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. More help is needed with this project. Please reply if you are interested.
* Chris Jones shared concern that when Heritage has a train at the elevator there is limited accessibility to the west side of town in an emergency, especially the daycare facility. Jill and Jayne discussed perhaps counting traffic to Dodge Park to help build the case for the bridge to be reopened for vehicles.
* Jill provided information from a Wright State student researching how small business owners make decisions. She invited anyone interested in participating (and being compensated) to contact the student (see attached letter).
* Linda stated Amy Pratt approached the association on behalf of One God, Many Churches, the group of 12 local churches that put on the community Christmas carryout dinner on Dec 25 from 11-2 at Liberty Gathering Place. The group would like the WLBA to make a donation for the meal. Molly suggested WLBA give $275 towards this and a majority of the board voted in favor of that idea. Those who are in need or alone can pick up a hot meal on Christmas Day. Call 465-4749 for more info. Please spread the word!
* Katie shared an update on the Christmas Tour of Homes to be held Dec 11 from 12-4pm. The Vitt home, the Woodruff Home (in place of the last minute cancellation of the Poland Home), the Blackbird on the Madriver Airbnb and the Town Hall will be on tour.
* Tami reported that Eric Esh has finished the new downtown lighting and will be removing the old lighting soon. Mitch proposed we light up downtown upstairs windows with orange lights for Halloween next year and Jill suggested pink for breast cancer and form a smiley face etc.
* Chris Jones reported their first concert in the upstairs of their store went well on Small Business Saturday and they hope to have more concerts.
* Mitch motioned to adjourn the meeting. Linda seconded.