

West Liberty Business Association Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 9, 2022 at Liberty Gathering Place 5:30pm

In attendance: Heather Chamberlain (Theresa's Gingerbread House), Linda Vernon, Vice President (Vernon Farms), Katie Neer, Secretary (Solomon's Garage and Neer & Farm), Tami Cox, Member at Large (Country Friends), Jill McKelvey (WL Mayor), Chris Jones (Jones Country Store), Lydia Hess (Logan Co Chamber)

Board President Heather Chamberlain called the meeting to order. Following some conversations that took place at the May meeting, Heather announced that from now on, she asks that all members in attendance at meetings conduct themselves with the utmost respect towards one another, or they will be asked to leave. We all want what is best for the community and all should be given a chance to discuss anything we consider worthwhile.

Katie Neer read the **meeting minutes from May** which had previously been emailed to membership. Tami moved to accept the minutes. Jill seconded it. Motion passed.

Katie Neer provided the **Treasurer's report** in Brittany's absence. See attached. Katie asked if we could downgrade our QuickBooks online subscription to save money. Katie noted that now that we are receiving electronic payments through Converge on the mywestliberty.com website, there is some confusion about what funds are being submitted for. There is one person we are not sure at this time who submitted \$50, and the Board is working to determine what those funds were earmarked for. Tami said Berry Digital shared with her that there is a business in Urbana also using Converge for online payment processing experiencing the same confusion and suggested we consider switching to Square where there is a line to make a note of what your payment is for. The Board will discuss further and decide. Tami motioned that we reimburse any sponsors who had agreed to pay for an ad in the New Resident/Tourism booklet that is no longer being made. Katie seconded.

Tami mentioned that she is going to set up a meeting with Berry Digital to work on cleaning up the **mywestliberty.com** website and improving the overall look since now we are directing more and more people to the page. All agreed that would be a good idea. Katie remarked we need a better quality image of the mural on the home page. Tami said that Lindsey with Elle A Design is going to send it to BDS. Jill mentioned she feels there should not be ad space sold to a business on the Government page moving forward, but rather have a photo of Council or the Town Hall, etc. Katie agreed. Tami mentioned that Lane Yoder with Elle A Design is taking photos of community events, Jill suggested we see if she has any from the Hello Spring, Fire Sales, National Tourism Week West Liberty Day, etc. to put on the mywestliberty Facebook page or website. Heather will talk to Bailey with Beighliebird Photography about taking photos and providing them monthly to BDS to update the website.

Jill reported on behalf of the **Village Council**.

- There will be a commercial Beautification Award this year in addition to the residential Beautification Award. Please submit nominations for both.

- Jill reported that the calendars have been designed and shared a copy of them. They will be for sale starting in August for \$10 each. They will also have West Liberty merch for sale around that time as well.
- Jill urged everyone to vote in the August 2 election for a representative and reminded us of the critical importance of local elections.
- July Business of the Month will be announced soon, and the August Business of the Month vote will go out soon.
- Jill announced that the village is doing more veterans memorial flags, and they will be placed on the west side of town – contact the Village office to have one made. Volunteers are critically needed to help hang these flags.
- Jill invited everyone to attend the What's Next? Meeting at the Opera House June 15 at 6pm, and the utilities meeting at Green Hills June 16.

The Events committee reported on the upcoming events.

Summer Street Market and Car Show June 25 from 10am-8pm - This is the same day as a big ball tournament, the Lion's Club pancake breakfast, fish fry and the Village fireworks display all at Lion's Park.

- Katie confirmed that NOVA entertainment will provide music from 11-3 at the Town Hall.
- Tami announced she just got a band, JR Hunter & Crossfire. They will play from 4-8.
- There will be food trucks including Wilson Rollin Schmoke and kettle corn.
- Katie stated that 7 vendors have registered so far for the street market. Tami is considering setting up with items from her store and encourages other stores to do the same. Katie said if other store owners don't want to set up on E Columbus, at least have sidewalk sales that day.
- Katie said all stores should extend hours that day as the idea of having this event is to generate excitement and provide something for those in town for ball tournament and fireworks something else to do and the opportunity to support our local businesses.
- Katie and the staff at Solomon's Garage are working diligently on the car show. The mechanics at Solomon's will serve as judges for the show. There will be 1st, 2nd and 3rd place Best of Show trophies awarded for each division – car, motorcycle, and midget racecars.
- Applications to set up as a street market vendor, food truck or to register in the car show are available right on the home page of mywestliberty.com or at Solomon's Garage.
- Flyers have been distributed this week by Solomon's Garage staff and more are available at Solomon's.
- Water bottles will be sold as a fundraiser at the Town Hall that day and reusable West Liberty tote bags with coupons and other giveaways will be handed out. Any businesses with items to add to the bags should drop off to Country Friends by Tues June 21 (open Tues thru Sat 10-5). Ohio Caverns is providing tickets for children in the bag and the Logan Co Chamber has provided several promotional items.
- Katie said Solomon's Garage staff will bring two picnic tables from their property that are on loan from Lion's Club to the side of Sweetie Pie's prior to the event.
- Malia Hughes with Fathom Realty was confirmed as a sponsor.

July 13 – bus tour – Marie’s Candies will be hosting a Senior Citizen group from Sidney at 10a.m. and invited them to explore downtown WL while here as well, they were receptive. The events committee is working on programming for this event; however, Linda has been unable to reach the contact. Jill stated that is the anniversary for Sweetie Pie’s and the day of their mural reveal. Katie will coordinate with Ashley and Becca to see if the tour group could be present for the reveal.

CLCS Labor Day weekend

- WLBA will not be selling nonalcoholic drinks at the concert as originally planned.
- WLBA received 6 tickets for our sponsorship of the concert, and we will raffle off two to WLBA members and 2 sets of 2 to the public. The raffle winners will be announced around Aug 1. Tickets will be sold starting at the car show.

The Sherman Rickets Park dedication will be June 29 at 2:50pm. Bike helmets will be handed out to kids.

Tami stated she has the Cray Cray Cajun food truck committed for the Christmas parade.

Jill suggested featuring our local airbnbs for the Christmas Tour of Homes. All agreed that would be a good idea. Heather said Malia Hughes has a new Airbnb opening in December, hopefully it will be able to be included. Heather suggested holding the tour later in the day. Katie said that would be fine and she would help provide all materials from previous years to Heather as she will due to have her baby around the time of the tour this year.

Heather stated volunteers are needed for the Events Committee – to help plan the Christmas parade, the Tour of Homes, the Fall Open Houses, etc.

Linda moved to adjourn the meeting. Tami seconded it.

***Next month’s meeting is yet to be scheduled. Stay tuned for an email update of date and time.**

Thank you,

Katie Neer

WLBA Secretary