

West Liberty Business Association

Thursday, May 13, 2021 at Liberty Gathering Place 7:45am

In attendance: Mitch Lingrell, President (LT's Uniquities), Linda Vernon, Vice President (Vernon Farm), Katie Neer, Secretary (Solomon's Garage and Neer & Farm), Tami Wenger (Gloryland Ministries & West Liberty Star), Roberta Yoder (Heaven's Dew Ag & Bobbi's Bungalow,) Stacy Rees (Neer & Farm,) and Jill McKelvey (WL Mayor), Jayne Griffith (West Liberty Village Council,) Gary Weaver (Civista Bank,) Jennifer Schwaderer (People's Savings & Loan and Historical Society), Tami Cox (Country Friends of Ohio), Shane Oelker (WL Police), Molly Toth-Thompson & Rob Thompson (Design Scribe)

Business items:

Mitch called the meeting to order.

Katie Neer read the Annual Dinner Meeting minutes from April provided by the former secretary, Roberta Yoder. Jill McKelvey corrected that the splash pad reopening will be held May 29 not May 30. Mitch moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Tami seconded it. Motion passed.

Mitch reported that he had not received a treasurer's report from Jon prior to the meeting.

Jill McKelvey reported for the **West Liberty Village**. Jill provided update on upcoming Ricketts Memorial park dedication to be held May 15. She encouraged businesses to have ads put up on the building visible from the bike trail and to utilize the new bulletin board for signs and announced that Mitch has a key to access the board. Jill provided update on paw prints leading cyclists through town to the downtown businesses and to the park. Jill stated there will be a mural and selfie station painted on the silo by the bike trail on the west end of town. Mitch suggested contacting Merle Neeld to paint the mural. Residents are encouraged to report those with horses on the bike trail. The Village Council will split the cost of the portajohns for garage sale day with the Business Association. Jill announced the Council is looking into getting higher speed internet for the village and surrounding rural areas, and potentially providing free wifi in public spaces through town. Peak fiber is on the east side of Bellefontaine by US 33 and comes down to Green Hills.

Jayne Griffith reported progress continues on the Columbus St bridge. Heritage owns the spur underneath the bridge, and there had been some question of who is responsible for the bridge in the past. Jayne announced that the Village is assuming responsibility of the bridge. Jill announced the property behind Liberty Square sold and the new owner plans to build condos and is exploring funding using TIF methods. Jack Reser suggested the council TIF the whole village and moneys would be available to assist property owners in updating storefronts, etc. The Country Legend Concert Series and Lion's Club will be holding a meeting this evening open to the public to discuss the alcohol that will be served at the event and the facts surrounding the event. All are encouraged to attend.

Police Chief Shane Oelker reiterated that if anyone witnesses unlawful use of the bike trail, to alert the police for the safety of those using the trail. Chief Oelker announced that parking downtown will not be limited to two hours but rather there will be no overnight parking. This will help with snow removal, street cleaning, etc.

Linda Vernon reported for the **Events Committee**. They are finalizing details for May 21 events. There will be a Vendor Fair downtown (with vendors set up at MCC Thrift, CT Communications and Neer & Farm as well as Nova Entertainment and Katy Leib singing, food trucks including Sazon Latin American, Sweet Carolyn's, Fort Grille, Where There's Smoke, Paul's Catering, placed at Solomon's Garage, MCC Thrift, LT's Uniquities and CT Communications) and a Farmer's Fair at Piatt Castle from 3-7pm that day. The event is being advertised on social media and on the radio. The Village fire sales will take place the following day. The portajohns have been ordered from Kelly's Septic and food trucks have been lined up throughout town including Fresh Harvest, Where There's Smoke, Big Willies, Snack Shack and Fat Rack's. The Events Committee is planning a couple fundraisers later this summer- including raffling off a bike or ATV, and raffling off the 5 tickets the Association received from Country Legend Concert Series in exchange for sponsorship of the concert.

Jennifer was reporting for the **West Liberty Historical Society**. They are working on getting out opera house fundraising flyers. They are planning tours June 10th with a yard event. Shane Oelker volunteered to serve cotton candy. They will be coming out with a wish list for targeted donations. They need about \$146,500 of the original \$600,000 goal. They may sell opera house chairs at the Bailey House garage sale weekend. Sat, May 15 will be a floor cleaning day at the opera house, anyone interested is welcome to lend a hand.

Roberta Yoder announced that her new business, Heaven's Dew Ag, located just south of town on US Rt 68 is officially open and plans to hold a Grand Opening event on June 4 & 5, with a ribbon cutting at 11:30 on the 4th. It is open Tues-Sat.

Molly Toth-Thompson announced the opening of her new business, Design Scribe, located on West Baird St in the former trophy shop location. She will offer design, print and web services as well as boutique and seasonal office supplies in her retail store space. She is open Thurs-Sun.

Tami Wenger asked that anyone with news share with her so she can provide a write up in the West Liberty Star.

Mitch moved to adjourn the meeting. Tami seconded it.

***Next month's meeting will be held Thurs, June 10th at 7:45am at Liberty Gathering Place.**

Katie Neer
WLBA Secretary