



CHAMBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 7, 2024
12:00 PM

Board Member	Present	Reported Absence	Unreported Absence	Board Member	Present	Reported Absence	Unreported Absence
Nick Olson	X			Candace Horneck	X		
Chad Faur	X			Heather Rank	X		
Lacy Johnson	X			Shona Hughes	X		
Bridget Algieri				Katie Koppy	X		
Julie Samuelson	X			Joshua Miron	X		
Jana Wiener		X		Julie Stevens	X		
				Paige Nelson			

Guests in attendance:

- Sandy Voigt, Entrepreneur Fund & Women’s Business Alliance
- Alayna Hockman, Blaze Credit Union
- Casey Heins, Blaze Credit Union
- PHASE Industries, Kaitlyn
- Lezlie Sauter, Pine County

1. Meeting was called to order at 12:02 PM by President Nick Olson.
2. Member and guest introductions.
3. Guest Presentation: Sandy Voigt, Entrepreneur Fund & Women’s Business Alliance

Sandy Voigt shared a presentation on the Entrepreneur Fund and the work that they do across the 16 county region in the north east sector of Minnesota as well as 13 counties in northern Wisconsin. A newly updated website at efund.org highlights their services: small business loans, technical advising, business coaching and more.

Voigt is currently recruiting in the East Central region to launch a new “Be Strategic” 6 week course for business owners in the Mora and Pine City area.

On April 4th in Brainerd, the Women’s Business Alliance will host their annual “She Leads” event designed for female entrepreneurs.

Voigt recommended subscribing to the efund newsletter through their website to stay updated on the variety of resources available through the Entrepreneur Fund.

4. Executive Director Report

- a. The Pine City map project is still looking for advertisers. The map will focus on city limits and include some information about our local parks.
- b. Schueller presented the Financial Report for the current month's approval.
 - i. General expenses for approval include postage, chamber chat, member software, annual liability insurance renewal, and payroll. These expenses total \$3,274.37.
 - ii. Foundation expenses for approval include ambassador buttons and liquor application and insurance needed for Freedom Fest. These expenses total \$195 from Ambassadors, and \$175 from Freedom Fest.
 - iii. A motion to approve the Financial Report was made by Miron, second by Samuelson. Motion carried.

5. Chamber Event Committees

- a. Networking committee shared two upcoming events with the group: Happy Hour on March 14th at Wings North, sponsored by Pine City Auto Sales and the Morning Perk on March 21st at Timber Pines Senior Living. The committee members are still planning future events, but are in need of host ideas for Morning Perk events this summer.
- b. The Freedom Fest committee has finalized some additional items for this year including a new Bluegrass music group that will play from 10-12 inside the Event Center. Horneck shared an idea for a hot dog eating contest and has made some connections with a potential sponsor. Additional items to look into would be insurance, waivers, etc. The next committee meeting for this group will be on March 15th.

6. Business & Community Development Updates

- a. Hands for Pine City, Jeff's Outdoor Services, and the Pine City Chamber will co-host the Community Easter Celebration on March 30th in Robinson Park from 11am - Noon. The Chamber will be creating a word find and print 200 copies to include in the backpacks.
- b. Johnson shared some member feedback from Adrenaline Archery and their reluctance to renew this year as they didn't feel that they received any value from being a member. This sparked some great discussion with board members about how we can get our members to see and feel the value of membership.
- c. A suggestion was made to see if we can do a lunch & learn topic around website SEO.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM on a motion from Miron, second by Johnson.