

Barron Chamber of Commerce Minutes

September 21, 2023

In Attendance: Pat Thornby, Ann Matheny, Mike Nielson, Lori Van Ess, Josh Tomsovic, Angie Buckley, Jamie Edwards, Bea Lundequam, Amanda Smith-Feldt, De Anna Westphal

Guest: Billie Church

Meeting Lead By: Ann Matheny

Minutes: Minutes from August were not available for approval, will be reviewed in October

Financials: Financials from August were not available for approval, will be reviewed in October

Committee Reports:

1. Annual Meeting
 - a. Nothing to report
2. Festival Events
 - a. Holiday Lights
 - i. Still no response from Menards or Farm & Fleet for donations
 - ii. Tourism Committee donation will be used to update many of the stringed lights that shorted out last year
 - iii. 2023 display process will be started the first or second week of November
 - b. Winterfest
 - i. Insurance policy updated to add firepits for the event
 1. Cost to be reimbursed by the Tourism Committee
 - ii. Event will be hosted at Rolling Oaks Golf Course again
 - c. Trunk-or-Treat
 - i. Adding a best trunk and best costume award for this year's event
 1. Still looking for judges to make the selections
 2. Posters are ready to be distributed for promotion
 - a. Will be shared on social media as well
 3. Will be trying to add the "Golden Bear" contest this year
 - a. Need to find the beat, currently missing from last year
 4. Need to find out if the school is hosting their event on the same day
 5. Discussion to add a \$250.00 candy allowance for the event
 - a. Motion made by Ann Matheny, Seconded by Lori Van Ess
 - b. Motion carried
 - c. Will add single line item to budget next year
 - d. Fall Events
 - i. Fall display contest kicked off this week
 1. Chamber businesses have until September 29th to make a display for judging

2. Send out a reminder email for those who want to participate to get entry form submitted so judges can hit all locations
 3. Fall coloring contest sheets have been distributed
 - a. 3 age levels are available
 - b. 5 locations available for pick up
 4. Thanksgiving Meal Giveaway
 - a. Will be giving away 8 meals this year
 - i. Jennie-O donating 2 turkeys
 - b. Donations for meals will be accepted and items purchased for meals will be at KJ's in Barron
3. Music in the Park
- a. Canceled Bands from 2023 series
 - i. The contracts are set and the bands will still be paid even if we don't use them
 1. Discussed hosting a holiday event at the BACC and having a band perform
 2. Would have to have a small entry fee to help cover the BACC cost for holding an event
4. Retail Promotions
- a. Beer, Wine, & Food Tasting
 - i. Event was held September 7th at the Church barn
 - ii. Attendance was similar to last year
 1. Weather played a role on keeping some attendees away
 - iii. Beverage vendors were well received and many ran out of their supply
 - iv. Food vendor options were increased this year
 1. Allowed for more options and prevented a shortfall like last year
 2. Less tickets were also purchased for sampling this year
 - v. Pricing options for next year were discussed
 1. Potentially move to a bundle price that includes glass and punch card
 - a. Discussed \$15.00 - \$20.00 pricing option
 - b. Chamber Dollars
 - i. Barron Fall Chamber Bucks Sale
 1. Will run from September 22nd – October 7th
 - a. Buy \$20 get \$25
5. Young Ambassadors
- a. Participant Update
 - i. A couple girls helped out at the Beer, Wine, & Food tasting event
 1. Girls did a great job and were very helpful
 - ii. There is a new participant signing up
 - iii. Will be asking the Young Ambassadors to help out at two upcoming events
 1. Sensible Solutions Pink Ribbon 5K
 2. Trunk-or-Treat event
6. Administrative
- a. Monthly meeting date and time

- i. Discussion was had about whether or not our current meeting date and time is best for the board
 - 1. It was determined that we will keep meetings the same for now and will bring it up again at the annual meeting

- 7. New Barron Businesses
 - a. Tree Stand Tavern
 - i. Ribbon cutting will be scheduled soon
 - b. Kwik Trip – New location
 - i. Will contact once the new location is open

- 8. New and Follow-up items
 - i. Sensible Solutions Care Clinic Pink Ribbon Advocacy 5K
 - 1. Event scheduled for September 30th at 9:00am
 - 2. Jamie offered us the opportunity to setup a table with information regarding our upcoming events to help with promoting the events
 - 3. The Chamber will need to have someone at the table from 9:00 to 12:00
 - a. Will ask the Young Ambassadors if they would be interested in attending the event

Meeting Adjourned

Josh Tomsovic