**West Liberty Business Association Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, Sept 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),  Tami Cox, Member at Large (Country Friends), Jill McKelvey (WL Mayor), Jayne Griffith (West Liberty Village Council), Lydia Hess (Logan Co Chamber), Stacey Rees (Neer & Farm)

**Minutes:**

* Mitch called the meeting to order.
* Katie read the August **minutes** which she previously emailed. Please note the following corrections: Rob Herrong (Design Scribe) was in attendance in August and reported on the United Way Stuff the Bus campaign. The Oct 21 Purple Heart event will include a dedication of Veteran's Park at 6pm by the cannon and a reception following at Quest Church at 6:30pm. Mitch and Jayne will represent the community at the butterfly wing mural at the Bike Trail on Sunday Sept 12. Tami Cox moved to accept the minutes with those corrections. Linda Vernon seconded.
* Mitch shared the **Treasurer’s Report**provided by Jon.
* Jill McKelvey provided the Mayor's/Council report:
1. Thanks to VP Linda Vernon's grant writing, and help from Sherman Ricketts family, a shelter house, slide in picnic tables, benches, restroom and water fountains as well as landscaping will be put out at Sherman Ricketts park near Simon Kenton Bike Path. This will be dedicated June 29, 2022 (the 60th anniversary of Sherman Ricketts passing).
2. The Village is switching their cell phones for staff to AT&T since Sprint phones have not been working.
3. Broadband still coming to the village.
4. Village has taken over mowing at old elementary school.
5. W Columbus St ped/bike bridge still moving foward.
6. Traffic signal lines behind Subway being raised.
7. SKP event will be this Sunday Sept 12.
8. The Village is paying $1000 to WLBA to go towards new resident/tourism booklets being printed Jan 2022.
* Mitch asked Lydia if she had any news to report from Ben Vollrath on if Logan Co Chamber or Visitors Bureau would assist with printing of booklets in Jan 2022. Lydia will check.
* Tami Cox reported on the status of the downtown lighting. Eric Esch will be wiring electric to top of light poles and removing lights that are falling from tops of buildings. WLBA is purchasing new lights from McAuliffe's to be installed in between light poles with stainless steel cable. (This will be identical to setup downtown Marysville). These lights will likely burn 24/7 to conserve bulbs and will be a warm glow style light. Council will possibly assist with project and take previously used lights which match Christmas tree lights for future use.
* Mitch reported that Jake Vitt has done an amazing job planting and maintaining planters downtown West Liberty this year.
* Mitch is calling Kraig Hissong to work with WLS about Christmas parade and will ask if high school journalism students can help with Monthly Member Spotlights. Jill suggested having those students work with retired English teachers. Katie will work to coordinate this once she hears from Mitch.
* Katie stated she will draft the membership renewal letter for 2022 and plans to send out by Oct 1. The board will meet regarding this letter Sept 21 8:00a.m. at LGP. Membership renewal will have a base rate and al a carte additions to be included in booklet, for sign update reimbursement program, etc. Tami suggested we work with code enforcement on building beautification, signage, hours, more businesses, occupancy, etc. Linda and Katie agreed. Stacey stated this will help all downtown businesses.
* Events committee reported the following.
1. Sept 24&25 will be the Fall Open Houses. All business are strongly encouraged to participate by being open and consider having sidewalk sales. We will work to boost posts about this event, provide live music and food trucks.
2. June 24-26 will be the dates of the one and only 2022 Vendor Fair/Summer Fest. Nova Entertainment missed the Aug 20 event so will do the summer event at no additional charge. Food trucks will be set up throughout downtown (at CT and near ICP) and vendors will be set up between Baird and Columbus streets on sidewalks.
3. Events committee is working to have large bus tours April 28 and Sept 8, 2022. Linda Vernon is also looking into smaller 15 passenger bus tours monthly between the April and Sept date to drive traffic into retail stores.  The next Events Committee Meeting is Sept 23 8:00a.m. at LGP.
* Mitch reported on Christmas:
1. Mitch would like someone else to head up Christmas in 2022 so he can have an LT's float. Volunteers needed. Mitch is having Chris put parade float sign up form for this year on [mywestliberty.com](http://mywestliberty.com) All businesses encouraged to participate. Want to beat our record of 36 floats in 2019. The lineup will be Nov 26 at Lion's Park at 5:30pm and the parade starts at 6:30pm.
2. Stacey with Neer & Farm will decorate the library window for the month of November and she will work on assembling Snowflake basket to be raffled off. All businesses are encouraged to contribute to the basket. It has been $700-800 in value the past few years.
3. Katie is seeking volunteers to help with the Christmas Tour of Homes which will be held Dec 11.
4. Christmas Open houses will be Nov 5&6.