**West Liberty Business Association Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, October 14, 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), Stacey Rees (Neer & Farm), Jennifer Schwaderer (People's & Historical Society), Molly Toth-Thompson (Design Scribe), Bob Harrison (Historical Society), Gary Weaver (Civista Bank), Brittany McElroy (Civista Bank), Adam Sorenson (Mental Health Dept)

**Minutes:**

* Mitch called the meeting to order.
* Adam Sorenson reported that he works for the Mental Health Dept and encouraged all to vote for the levy to support mental health, it will be $11/ year per household and hasn't had a raise in funding since 1988.
* Katie read the September minutes which she previously emailed to the membership. Tami Cox moved to accept the minutes with those corrections. Linda Vernon seconded.
* Mitch shared there was no treasurer's report, as Jon McCutcheon's last day as treasurer is Oct 15. Mitch reported that the board had two parties interested in stepping up as treasurer - Brittany McElroy and Molly Toth-Thompson. The board voted Tuesday and elected Molly to be the Treasurer, but put Brittany in place as the Secretary/Treasurer Assistant. Katie and Molly will be in contact with Brittany as needed. Molly and Mitch will work to obtain Treasurer's materials from Jon.
* Mitch reported the membership renewal letters were sent out early this year in an attempt to get membership dues and commitments sooner in 2022 so an accurate list of members could then be placed in the new Tourism/New Resident booklet being printed in January. The annual dinner meeting will still be held in April.
* Jill McKelvey provided the Mayor's/Council report ahead of time to Mitch. Mitch reported on the following for Jill:
* 1. Jill is attending a mayor's meeting next week.
* 2. Jill suggested we park large buses for tours at the old tennis courts near Dodge Park.
* 3. The purple heart ceremony and Veterans Park dedication will be held Oct 21.
* 4. Vote yes for the road and bridges levy. This is key in continuing local infrastructure improvements.
* 5. Don't  block mailboxes when parking on West Columbus Street.
* 6. The splash pad is looking for volunteers to clean weekly.
* 7. The village is working on sewer and street department grants.
* 8. The village is looking into forming a parks and rec district to maintain all the Village parks.
* Jayne Griffith reported on the work that is being done to get the pedestrian/bike bridge near Dodge Park reopened. She is applying for a grant to aid in the cost of work on the bridge. The WLBA fully supports this project and thinks it would help link the downtown business district with the Simon Kenton Pathfinders bike trail.
* Jayne Griffith is working to set up a meeting with Zoning Officer Scott Woodruff to meet with WLBA and discuss signage codes for businesses in our community.
* Bob Harrison and Jennifer Schwaderer reported on progress with the opera house. The elevator is now in operation. The floor will be repaired or replaced soon.
* Jennifer Schwaderer suggested the Opera House be used for the annual dinner if available at that time. All agreed that would be good.
* Jennifer also reported the Historical Society hopes to have a showcase of musicians Sat Nov 27 in the evening. Details to come.
* Jennifer stated the historical society is forming an Operations Committee now that facility will be open, so anyone interested in that should contact Jennifer.
* Mitch reported on Christmas in the Village Events.
* 1. Mitch has a panel of 3 Mayors set to judge the parade to be held on Black Friday at 6:30pm.
* 2. Santa has been confirmed.
* 3. Brent Kauffman will be the Grand Marshall.
* 4. If the opera house floor is repaired or replaced in time the Historical Society would like to move Santa upstairs the night of the parade rather than setting up Santa in the firehouse. All agreed this would be a good idea.
* 5. Molly will ask if her son Wyatt will wear Roberta Yoder's elf costume this year to help Santa.
* 6. Stacey with Neer & Farm will decorate the library window for the month of November and she will work on assembling a 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.
* 7. Tami has worked with Elle A Design to have save-the-date posters printed for 20 local storefronts. Stacey from Neer & Farm will pass those out while she is collecting goodies for the snowflake basket.
* 8. Tami is working with Eric Esh to have the downtown lighting in place by November.
* 9. Mitch would like someone else to head up Christmas in 2022 so he can have an LT's float. Volunteers needed.
* 10. Christmas Open houses will be Nov 5&6.
* Linda Vernon reported on the Events Committee. Still looking at having large bus tours in April & September and 15 passenger van tours monthly from April to September. Still looking to have a large Vendor Fair/Car Show June 24-26.
* Katie is heading up the Tour of Homes committee. She has Jayne, Cindee Boyd, Brittany assisting. It will be held Dec 11 12-4pm Tickets will be $15 ahead of time or $20 the day of. Any suggestions for homes to be on tour would be welcomed. Any volunteers or sponsors would also be welcomed.
* Linda has been working on a grant to help with the Sherman Ricketts park.