

**Houston Area Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting
Monday, September 21, 2020, 5:30 p.m., Virtual Meeting
Meeting Minutes**

Present: Chris Schroeder (President), Rod Torgerson (Vice President), Nancy Forsyth (Treasurer), John Evenson (Secretary), Ron Evenson (Board Member), Marlene Schultz (Chamber Member), Taylor Laschenski (Director)

- I. Meeting was called to order by Chris at 5:34 p.m.
- II. Minutes from July's meeting were approved. Rod motioned to approve, Ron seconded. Motion carried.
- III. Nancy presented the Chamber's current balance: \$9,717.08.
- IV. Old Business:
 - A. Hollidazzle - Cancelled this year. Marlene's committee will still decorate the park and put on the parade.
 1. Marlene requested Houston Bucks for prizes in the amounts of \$50, \$40, and \$30. Ron motioned to approve, John seconded. Motion carried.
 - B. Increasing Chamber Members - The board will turn its attention to 2021 membership.
 - C. Explore MN Crisis Grant - Discussed planned use of funds.
 - D. Valley View Concert - Chamber sponsored a Mollie B concert over the summer.
 - E. Block Party - Cancelled.
- V. New Business:
 - A. Future Forward + Bluff Country Collaborative (BCC)
 1. Ron and Taylor have chatted with new career navigators with BCC, an organization that seeks to pair local businesses with schools in an effort to bring awareness to local career opportunities and the education and resources needed for them.
 - B. City of Houston CARES Act Funds
 1. City of Houston opened grant applications for businesses within the city to receive funds to support issues encountered as a result of COVID-19. Grant applications are reviewed on a rolling basis.
 2. County also has grant funds available and has opened a second round of applications.

C. Houston Brochure

1. Taylor has been recreating the Houston brochures that are now outdated. Questions of funding and brochure content were discussed.
2. **Taylor will send the current brochure out for review.**

D. Business Trick-or-Treat

1. Event will be Friday, Oct. 30 from 4-6 p.m. Pumpkin decorating contest is on; pumpkin drop off will be 4-5 p.m. with judging at 5:15.
2. **Taylor will gather the list of participating businesses and talk to the Hoedown court about judging.**

E. October Newsletter

1. **Taylor will send a fall email update to the Chamber email list and members.**

F. Community Center

1. Discussed the possibility of supporting the new community center with a fundraiser. The board will require more information before making a decision or proposing the idea to the City.
2. **Marlene and Chris will follow up.**

VI. John motioned to adjourn, seconded by Rod. Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Submitted by Taylor Laschenski, Director