

Houston Area Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting

Barista's

Monday November 20, 2023

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Additions to the Agenda
- III. October Meeting Minutes –
- IV. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Balance – John Evenson moved to approve, and Vicki Olson 2nd motion all approved.
 - b. Houston Bucks – discussed what was outstanding balance in the account and how the amount of Houston Bucks was sold in the last 12 months.
- V. Old Business
 - a. Shed update. – emailed and dropped off plans to the school for Industrial Arts Instructor to determine if class can do in the Spring and get bids on the plan as well.
 - b. Membership Fees – Increase membership fees for 2024. Margaret had discussed what Rushford has in place and has mirrored Rushford's Chamber memberships. – John Evenson made a motion to approve and second by Vicki Olson. Motion Carried.
 - c. Events
 - i. Business Trick or Treat
 1. Margaret read thru suggestions for next year. Discussed having the pumpkin contest in front of

Bluff Country Financial vs. up at the bank parking lot.

2. Discussed prizes for the pumpkins – do we want individuals to vote or have the Hoedown Court vote like they have in the past years.
 3. Do we want to give something to all participants and have one prize winner per school grade category?
 4. Need to make sure in September of 2024 to have enough volunteers to help.
- ii. Murder Mystery – no update, Margaret had stated she attended and would strongly recommend the fun event if HAPPI House has it in the future.

VI. New Business

- a. Mn Earned Sick and Safe time.
 - i. Patrick Forsyth suggested we do 1 hour per 30 hours. Motion made by John Evenson seconded by Patrick Forsyth motion carried.
- b. Raffle Basket – Chamber is going to be doing a Holiday Raffle Basket and raffle price will be \$2.00 per raffle. Raffles will be available at Bluff Country Financial, Timeless Creations, Baristas and Houston Mn Public Library. The basket will be on display at Timeless Creations and at the library. Margaret will also be selling raffle tickets at the Holidazzle Vendor Market.
- c. Upcoming Events
 - i. November – Small Business Saturday, Margaret will be posting shop local on Facebook page and list on event calendar on Chambers website.
 - ii. December – Holidazzle

1. Light up the park – Committee is busy gearing up for the weekend. Chamber Director will be sending out reminders regarding when trees need to be decorated and when they will need to be taken down.
2. Vendor Market – Chamber to serve walking taco's and will be selling raffle tickets for the Holiday Basket
 - a. Volunteers – Margaret setup till close
 - b. Patrick & Marlene – 12:00 -2:00
3. Business Christmas Contest/Residential – ad in the Fillmore County Journal. Bringing this contest back to Houston.
 - a. Three prizes per category: \$50, \$40, and \$35 (match the parade prizes). Total to be given out would be \$250.00.
4. School Events – Chamber Director had listed the school concerts that will be coming up in the month of December.
5. City Events – nothing to report for the month of November.
6. Grant application for \$5k with Explore MN. The chamber was awarded the \$5k and will be looking at what type of advertising we will be doing.
 - a. Thoughts are to promote Chamber businesses in the Fillmore County Journal
 - b. Promote Hoedown's 50th anniversary.
 - c. Radio ad?
 - d. Billboard - Chamber director has investigated this, and billboard costs are a little too expensive for the brief period that we would use.

7. December Meeting – Chamber Director suggested we do not have a December meeting due to the schedules and other activities that everyone has going on. Board decided to not have a December meeting. Next meeting will be in January and will be our annual chamber membership meeting.

vii. Adjournment motion made by John Evenson seconded by Vicki Olson; motion carried.