
Anthony Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors Minutes

September 6, 2017

A regular meeting of the Anthony Chamber of Commerce was held September 6, 2017, at the Anthony Chamber of Commerce Office. Directors present were, Curt Clark, Ron Poor, Janie Gates, Eric Smith, Bette DeMeritt, Wes Higgs and Gwen Warner. Absent were Pat Myers and Mike Lanie.

President Curt Clark, called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. Motion by Ron Poor, seconded by Wes Higgs to approve the August 2, 2017 minutes. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Retail Meeting Update –Candy Cane Cash** support was reviewed. Karen and Sheila reviewed the program for new retailers Maria Gates and Caitlyn Henderson. Gwen reviewed redemption of Chamber Bucks and Candy Cane Cash. **Fall Fest** was discussed. We agreed that store participation would be 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Gwen will advertise Sidewalk Sales for those who decide to do them. **PLEASE** let Gwen know what special things, other than sidewalk sales, your business is planning for Fall Fest. A reminder—Fall Fest theme this year is Wild West, and is based around the Anthony Theatre’s live evening presentation of the Grand L’il Opry. Pole decorating will take place and you can call Sheila Adams if you need shocks or pumpkins from Clyde Ghere. Lix LePard reported on the vendor fair she hosted in the west side of her building last weekend. She invited home-based businesses to set up and sell. It was a successful day for everyone. She suggested that Main Street businesses offer to host home-based businesses as another way to draw people into our stores. We talked about a time to do that, and settled on Saturday, December 9. If you are willing to host a home-based vendor in your store on that day, email or text Lix (316-708-9446) and let her know how much space you can allow. She will find a business that will compliment your own. This day is not limited to retailers, but to any Chamber member willing to allow some space.
- **Fall Fest** – Gwen Warner reported “Wild West Fall Fest” is coming together very well. Plans are in the works for sidewalk sales, money scramble, 5K fun run, Fidget Spinner Contest, Mindy’s dance students, caramel apples, country store, game booths, fire education trailer, farmers market, western photo booth, custom rope by Buddy Williams, square dancing, face painting, bake sales and the Anthony Theatre’s “Grand Little Opera”.
- **Veterans Day** – Discussion was held on events that could be held on Veterans Day. Ron Poor said he will check on the trio of ladies from Kingman that perform a USO show to see if they would be available for our Veterans Day Program and if there is a cost for having them.
- **Ground Breaking Ceremony** – The Chamber board is invited to the “Ground Breaking Ceremony” for Anthony Automotive, at their building site on September 13th at 3 p.m. President Clark will represent the Chamber and bring his own shovel.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Downtown Discussion** – Ron Poor reported that the CID is a taxing district and a benefit district. The state law that created the commercial improvement district says that the tax funds raised are to be spent for capital improvements. It can be a building, a street, sewer line, but it has to be somewhere within the defined district. Our county commission is in control of the money and they have taken \$70 some thousand dollars to hire a legal firm (lawyers) to represent them in the litigation against the city of Anthony over the NRP. The CID law and it says nothing about legal fees or lawyers, it says capital improvement. Ron said he thinks the county has mis-appropriated \$70,000 of money that belongs to the tax payers and the central business district for improvements. No one is going to do anything about it unless someone who represents the business community stirs it up. Discussion was held on whether we need to talk about this or get some advice on the matter. The merchants are all collecting a 2 cent sales tax and their business would be better if they didn't have to do this.
- **Wayne Dennis Request for Christmas Light Lines** – The Wayne Dennis committee approved \$2,500 of the \$5,000 request. They said they didn't want to run their account too low. We need three (3) light lines replaced. The City approved the \$2,500 and with our \$1,000 from the Chamber we were still short about \$500. The city agreed to approve the extra funds.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Approve August Financial** – Motion by Janie Gates, seconded by Eric Smith to approve the August financial. Motion Carried.
2. **Approve New Members** – Motion by Eric Smith, seconded by Wes Higgs to approve new members Squash Blossoms Boutique (Maria Gates, Katie Carothers & Caitlin Henderson) and Harper County Community Foundation (Kevin Alexander). Motion Carried.
3. **Nominating Committee** – Discussion was held on possible candidates to be recommended to the nominating committee. Nominating committee members appointed by the president Curt Clark included Curt Clark, Ron Poor, Bette DeMeritt and Gwen. They will meet as soon as possible.
4. **Membership Drive** – The Membership Drive was tabled until next year.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. iDroid's Phone Clinic (Hugh & Leslie Profitt) is a new business in town, located on north LL&G.

BUSINESS CLIMATE REPORT

Discussion was held on how many businesses we have lost in the last year. Some of them included Jetts, McDermotts, Smokeshop, K.Lanes, KanOkla, Balloons Aloft,

Trotters, Jacks Service Station, Economic Development Office and The Perfect Touch is for sale. Discussion was also held on the entire counties loss of population.

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Ron Poor explained the various kinds of city government. There is commission/mayor, which is what Harper has. Commission form of government is what Anthony has and there is the commission/manager, which requires the hiring of a city manager. Seven years ago when Don Heidrick announced his retirement the Anthony Chamber of Commerce did a petition campaign to get signatures on a petition to put up for a public vote, the issue of changing form of city government from commission to commission/manager. The petition was presented to the city commission and they just said they were too busy and they weren't going to mess with it. The chamber had the required number of signatures on the petition calling for an election and they had no jurisdiction or right to refuse the election, but they did anyway. At that time they hired Amber. Now that Amber is leaving, Ron spoke with Amber and reminded her of what had happened years ago. Ron asked if she thought the commissioner would now take time to think about this or work on this and she said she would talk to them. Amber did talk with them about it, but no one on the commission knew much about it and weren't worried about what they have now. The individual commissioners are responsible for their area of responsibility. Today there are just seven (7) towns in Kansas that still use the form of government we have and Anthony is the largest of the seven (7) cities.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:07 p.m. - Motion by Ron, seconded by Janie Gates, to adjourn. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Gwen Warner Executive Director

Announcements:

- August 26, 2017..... Anthony Theatre Car Cruise #3
- September 4..... Labor Day
- September 6..... Chamber Board Meeting
- September 7-8-9..... Sales Days in Anthony
- September 11..... Patriot Day
- September 11..... Board of Education Meeting
- September 19..... Retail Meeting (8:30 a.m.)
- September 20..... Chamber Board Meeting
- October 4..... Chamber Board Meeting
- October 5-6-7..... Sales Days in Anthony
- October 7..... Fall Fest – “Anthony Theatre Grand Little Opera”