

Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 6th, 2015

Foristell Chamber of Commerce met at the T/A restaurant in Foristell, MO on January 6th, 2015. Chris Gaines led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Aaron Baker gave the invocation. Chris Gaines called the meeting to order.

Minutes: Meeting minutes from December were approved as stated.

Treasurer's Report:

- 1) Account balance as of January 6th, 2015 was \$2,382.20. The treasurer's report was approved as stated.
- 2) The chamber raised \$416 in ticket sales from the holiday basket. These funds will go towards the Ray Alexander Scholarship Fund.

Foristell City Report:

- 1) Sandy Stokes reports that the Foristell 2015 budget was passed. The Foristell park is open and a board is being formed which will oversee how the park will be used. It may be possible in the future that more land is donated to the city for park expansion.
- 2) The Foristell City Holiday party raised 581 food items to donate to the food pantry. 2 Barrels of toys were collected and donated to the Salvation Army. Overall attendance was down, but this year 5-6 gift baskets were presented which may spur higher attendance next year.

Wentzville School District:

- 1) Pam Frazier with the Wentzville School district reported that Michelle McKinley (Duello School) was named 2014-15 Teacher of the Year.
- 2) The WSD AP program has made the Honor Roll for 5 consecutive years, making it one of only six school districts nationwide to accomplish this feat.
- 3) A WSD wrestler had a tournament win in Kansas City.
- 4) The "Adopt-A-Family" program handed out gifts to 430 families and 1,100 children this year.

Wright City School District:

- 1) Chris Gaines reports that attendance was down in December for the School District. Basketball games have started at the High School. A Chili supper on Tuesday, January 13th at 4:30 will be held to raise funds for the Wright City Support Foundation, which provides grants to the WCSD for such things as tablets for Kindergartners.
- 3) There is a potential preschool levy increase of .10c to provide a free preschool to people in Wright City School District. This would put WC preschool facilities ahead of others in the area and provide free tuition for students. The plan is for there to be no net increase on the tax rate if the levy goes onto the ballot.

Merge with Wright City Chamber.

It was decided that for now, we would continue to operate as our own Chamber, but keep the option open for the future.

- 1) Michelle Smith did meet with the Wright City Chamber (WCC) and they have welcomed our chamber to meet with them at any time. WCC is open to a new structure and format if a merge takes place.
- 2) WCC hosts a business breakfast in March and that would be a great time for Foristell members to get to know the WCC members.
- 3) WCC publishes a business directory for its members. Michelle Smith will see if Foristell members could also advertise in that directory.

Topics for 2015 Speakers.

Here are a few ideas for topics and speakers the chamber would like to hear in 2015.

- HR Discussions with a focus on small businesses
- Insurance and the Affordable Care Act
- I-70 Toll Road (we may combine with Wright City Chamber since this has broad interest and impact)
- Roger Cox, A History of the Foristell and Wentzville area.
- Facebook and Social Media Marketing
- Identity Theft: medical, financial, etc
- Investments: technology; when to file for social security

With these ideas we could create a speaker's calendar and distribute to businesses in Foristell to improve Chamber membership and business relationships .

Chamber Guest Speaker for January: Dr. Curtis Cain, Wentzville School District Superintendent

- 1) Wentzville School District serves students residing in 5 different counties. That's 14,700 students at 15 schools. WSD is adding 600 students per year to their classrooms. Growth will continue and facilities are becoming a problem
- 2) 2023-2029 there will be an estimated 18,493 to 19,915 students in the WSD, predicting growth at 2.7%. However, growth over the last 10 years has averaged 6.4%. By 2018 the WSD will encounter student school room capacity problems. Currently WSD has 5 buildings at full capacity.
- 3) From 2011-13 WSD saw 3 subdivisions platted. Since 2013 there are 24 new subdivision plats planned. WSD must build to meet the growth and is planning a .25c ballot issue to build more school buildings.

Announcements:

- 1) Pam Frazier won the 50/50 drawing
- 2) Next meeting will be held on February 3rd, 2015 at the T/A. Speaker is TBD.

Submitted by Aaron Baker 1/7/2015