

Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

12/02/2014

Foristell Chamber of Commerce met at the T/A restaurant in Foristell, MO on December 2nd, 2014. Ken Orf led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Marvin Rodenbaugh gave the invocation. Phil Reid called the meeting to order.

Minutes: Meeting minutes from November were approved as stated.

Treasurer's Report:

1) Account balance as of December 2nd, 2014 was \$2,126.32. The treasurer's report was approved as stated.

2) Due to the passing of Ray Alexander, the chamber donated \$150 to the Shiloh UMC campus fund in Foristell where Ray was a member.

3) The chamber donated \$200 to the City of Foristell Christmas party / Open House. Chamber members are encouraged to donate items for the Christmas basket which will be raffled off at the open house on December 12th from 4-7pm at City Hall. Donations for the basket can be dropped off at City Hall. Members are also to try and sell \$20 worth of raffle tickets for the basket. Michelle Smith and Marvin Rodenbaugh will staff the chamber's table at the open house event.

4) Motion was made, seconded, and passed to change the annual scholarship to the "Ray Alexander Scholarship Fund".

City Report:

1) Sandy Stokes was not in attendance, so no report was given.

2) Chamber did discuss that the park is up and running and John Pickering mentioned a Park Board will be formed in 2015 which will include a Foristell business owner and Foristell resident. Having a park "Grand Opening" or "Open House" sponsored by the chamber may be a good way to be more involved in the community.

Wentzville School District:

1) No update to report from the WSD.

Wright City School District:

1) Christmas concerts are in full swing as there are only 13 days until Christmas break. Choir and band concerts and fundraisers are upcoming on December 10th or 11th. Spaghetti or chili dinner will be served.

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.

Our Shepherd's Food Pantry:

Donations are in great need as the holidays approach. Food can be dropped off at the pantry, or at the City Hall. The food pantry serves 50-60 families.

Old Business:

Discussion centered again on the possibility of merging the Foristell chamber with the Wright City Chamber. Membership is down and a merge may create advantages for our existing active members. Here are some advantages and disadvantages discussed:

Advantages:

- From a business standpoint, being part of a larger Chamber means more people with which to network.
- Better time management as many Foristell chamber members are also members with the Wright City Chamber. Merging may help people who are members of both chambers to more efficiently manage their time.

Disadvantages:

- Foristell chamber and its members do not want to lose our identity (IE-support for events we traditionally promote)

Action Points from this discussion:

- 1) Phil Reid offered to talk with the Wright City chamber and begin the discussion of a merge. Phil will also check with WC chamber and see if Foristell members could attend their chamber meeting on December 16th at 11:45am at Diekroger park in Wright City. Members who are interested in attending this combined chamber meeting need to RSVP to Michelle Smith.
- 2) Foristell chamber may need to discover if a merge would be feasible (logistically and culturally) and of real benefit to its members.
- 3) Tony Matthews, Warrenton chamber director, has experience with a chamber merge. It was agreed that we would invite Tony to come speak and answer questions related to a merge.

Announcements:

- 1) Phil Reid won the 50/50 drawing
- 2) Members were encouraged to bring in items for the Christmas Basket to City Hall.
- 3) Next meeting will be held on January 6th, 2015 at the T/A. Speaker is TBD.
- 4) In January 2015, Chris Gaines will assume the role of chamber President.
- 5) Anyone with ideas on events to promote the chamber, please contact Phil Reid.

Submitted by Aaron Baker 12/3/14.