

Meriden/Ozawkie Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes Thursday, April 21, 2016

In the absence of Chamber President Scott Stanley and Vice-President Chuck Wilson, Secretary Kent Duncan opened the meeting at 12:00 PM with a welcome to members and visitors present.

Meriden Pride Committee

Charlene Sams, City of Meriden, brought the Chamber up to date on plans for the Meriden Pride Festival and Street Dance scheduled for Saturday, September 17, 2016. There will be no parade this year but a 'live' band, DJ, additional food vendors and games are expected. The Chamber was again extended an invitation to provide watermelon and oversee a watermelon seed-spitting contest at the event. As plans develop you may visit the Meriden Pride Facebook page for additional information.

Charlene also announced the Meriden Pride and Jeff West Ball Association "Movies in the Ballpark" event on Saturday, April 30th at Lacey Field, beginning at sundown. The movie "The Good Dinosaur" will be presented at the ballpark to celebrate the beginning of baseball season.

Jeff West Booster Club Carnival and Auction

Alexa Surritt, R&S Maintenance, delivered a report and thank you from the Jeff West Booster Club following their April 16th fund-raising carnival and auction. Chamber members—and some potential members—contributed enough make sure two "baskets" were full to overflowing and successfully auctioned for \$200 and \$125, respectively.

Given that several Meriden-Ozawkie Area Chamber of Commerce gift certificates were part of the Jeff West Booster Club auction, Kent reminded members that gift certificates can be redeemed by mailing them to the Chamber of Commerce at PO Box 175, Meriden, KS, 66512.

Calendar reminders and other announcements

Kent reminded the chamber of the Meriden/Ozawkie Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament scheduled for Friday, June 24, 2016, at the Lake Perry Country Club.

Kent also passed on an advertising opportunity from the Valley Falls Athletic Association to display business banners at the Valley Falls ballparks. Interested parties may contact Jason Pickerell at jlpickerell@gmail.com. Information has been emailed to the chamber email list.

Jim McGrath, individual member, extended his invitation to the 17th Annual Iris Party on Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Jim and Nina open the garden of their home for people to enjoy the 850+ varieties of iris. Light refreshments are provided from 11:00 am- 1:00 pm.

Jim also gave notice that Junior Achievement was presenting City and Business classes in the Jeff West Grade School, grades 3 and 4. Jim, Alexa Surritt and Stephanie Kaniper are volunteer teachers for the program.

Jim reported from a meeting of the Planning and Zoning Committee and also the City Council that 11 of 53 acres from 74th Street to Wyandotte Street, Meriden has been re-zoned for commercial use. Barry White, Five Star Masonry, plans to build and operate business headquarters on the property as well as developing a recreational complex for indoor sports.

Jefferson County Economic Development

Brittany Chaplin, Jefferson County Economic Development, will be attending Kansas Sampler in Winfield, KS, next weekend. She is planning on operating a lake-themed photo booth for attendees and is developing “one” brochure with a link to the EDC's website to representing our local businesses. If you desire to have your business featured, please email Brittany a PDF of your business brochure to *executivedirector@jfcoksed.com*.

Brittany reported that committees, “Think Local First”, “Food Council”, and “Housing Re-Development” were all doing well. The first “Think Local First” coffee talks were successful and are planned to continue on a quarterly basis (March/ June /October).

County Commissioner’s Update

Wayne Ledbetter, Jefferson County Commissioner, informed the Chamber there is a tax sale of over 400 Jefferson County properties scheduled for Tuesday, April 26 at 9:00 am. Back issues of the Oskaloosa Independent contain listings and descriptions of properties for sale.

Special Guest – Laura Gigstad

Kent Duncan and Dede Skaggs introduced Laura Gigstad, Dental Care Specialist, as the Chamber speaker. Laura is in the process of developing “Bright Smiles Oral Health Program”—a mobile oral health school-based program designed to provide access to dental care for under-served children. Basic exams, cleaning, sealing as preventive oral care and information for access to needed urgent care would be provided in the schools with the goal of improving the overall health, focus and dental education for children Pre K – 12th Grade.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM