



Place: Romer's Banquet Room
Date: 9/11/2017

Members present: Karen Romer, Sharon Rindler, Matt Lammers, Nate Subler, Lisa Niekamp Urwin, Don Hess, John Yoder, Kim Baumer, David Romer, Chuck Stammen, Alexis Heath, Frank Urwin, Jared Ebbing.

President, Frank Urwin called the meeting to order.

Frank opened the meeting by welcoming Economic Development Director, **Jared Ebbing**. Jared began by sharing that Celina is ranked 15th in a list of top micropolitan areas in the United States. (*populations of at least 10,000 but fewer than 50,000 with the most new and expanded corporate facilities*). By states, Ohio ranks 1st in this same category. In our area, new housing development is up, business development/expansion is happening in places like Mercer Health, Tri-Star, & Mercer Landmark to name a few.

"People. People are the reason that businesses will not locate or expand in our area", commented Jared. **If we don't have the people to fill the positions, businesses will locate elsewhere.** Currently, there are close to 600 job openings posted on the Hometown Opportunity website. The site gets about 2,000 hits per day. A lot of Jared's work includes attracting people to our area. His office has recently done some advertising in the Cincinnati area through a Reds baseball program, resulting in many inquiries to the website. They advertise in communities where companies have recently closed and people have lost work.

We discussed the ongoing need for entry level workers in manufacturing and retail. Jared says this will always be a difficult situation. He feels strongly though, that it is very important to be involved in the schools, talking to students about jobs and careers, opportunities that are available right in this area. Being involved in the school systems lets students know that there are jobs available for every type of people. There will always be the allure of the unknown for young people to travel out of the area for education/work, etc; we should make certain they are informed of the types and quality of work, income, and living that is available in our local communities.

St Henry High School Junior **Alexis Heath** was introduced. Alexis holds the title of Miss Lake Festival's Outstanding Teen and this past June competed for the title of Miss Ohio Outstanding Teen. The competition judges the girls on fitness, talent, and interview performances. Alexis competed on the platform titled "Dueling Digital Dangers: The Online Safety Guide". Through this platform, she shares the dangers of identity theft, cyberbullying, and online predators with children, teens, and even adults. She takes a unique approach in that she presents the information from a children's view point using her self-authored story *Max The Knight*. Through her experiences in competing in the pageants, Alexis has learned that she likes to volunteer! She is a tutor for Ohio Future Educators of America, she does after school knitting, and recently completed a Positive Post-it Note Program where she posted over 800 notes on lockers and around the school communicating positive thoughts and encouraging words to classmates, teachers, and school staff. Through her entire experience, she is most aware and very thankful for what the community has given to her. With their support she has collected over \$1600 in scholarship money.

Treasure Report: David Romer reported the following balances ... Checking account - \$1,501.38 and Savings account - \$40,530.61; Chuck Stammen made a motion to approve the report, it was seconded by John Yoder. Motion Carried.

No changes were requested to the **minutes** from the June 12th meeting. They were motioned for approval by Chuck Stammen, and seconded by John Yoder. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

1) **St Henry Picnic:**

- a. David Romer reported \$8,500 in raffle tickets sales with a profit of \$5,600. Sales were down slightly from last year. A list of 2017 raffle ticket winners is attached. David thanked all volunteers. Overall, things went very smooth.

New Business:

Christmas Open House Update: Kim Baumer organizes the St Henry Christmas Open House and says that an e-mail has been sent out to all Chamber members inviting them to participate in the Open House. Businesses are responding to the e-mail, saving some time in reaching out to businesses individually. Non-Chamber businesses are being contacted for items to donate toward the gift baskets. Advertising will be done in the Daily Standard, possibly also in the Town Saver and on I-Heart Radio.

Village Money: Sharon Rindler brought into discussion the possibility of having Village Money redeemable only through a Chamber Member's business, thinking that it would be an extra incentive for a business to become a Member. We discussed the idea of having a letter handed out with all Village Money that gives brief instruction on how and where the money can be redeemed; the letter would list all of the current Chamber Members. David Romer thought that while it sounds like a good idea it would create a lot of bad will with non-Chamber members. Also, some members thought that it would add confusion; people would lose the list, or the list would be omitted at the time the money is purchased. The topic was table, allowing more time for thought and future discussion. Once a decision is made, it is suggested that a letter be drafted to refresh or inform all businesses of the availability of the Village Money and how it is to be redeemed. If you have definitive thoughts on this matter, and are not able to attend the next meeting, please direct your comments to Sharon.

Education Opportunity: Emily Gast Schlater extended an invitation to all interested businesses to attend one or more of the sessions being held in her Small Business Series, **Starting Your Business, Running Your Business, Your Business Succession Plan.** A copy of the invitation is attached for your review.

Thank you to "**St Henry Tile Company**" for hosting the stress relief – *Refreshing!!*

David Romer was the winner of the **Pot of God!!** - \$22.00 – He says it's his first time ever!

Chuck Stammen made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Matt Lammers seconded; Motion carried. Next meeting will be Monday, October 16, 2017, please join us.

Sincerely,

Sharon Rindler

Secretary