

Minutes of the Cowan Commercial Club

The Cowan Commercial Club Board of Directors met on Thursday, May 30, 2013 at Miss Gracie's restaurant with the following members in attendance: Mary Bledsoe, Cheryl Boswell, Ben Merrill, Jarod Pearson, and Judy Wiltze.

Judy called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

The meetings from the previous meeting on February 4, 2013 were read. With no changes, the minutes were accepted as read and filed.

Jarod gave an overview of the Treasury with the current bank balance at \$1,483.62. This balance represents a stronger membership this year compared to last year.

Jarod noted that Denise Miller may need to be replaced on the board of directors. Between now and the next meeting we will try to find someone interested in serving, preferably from the art community.

The Corner House is reopening in June 2013 and the new owner, Martha Austin, has already met with the Commercial Club president and has paid her membership dues. The new restaurant will be called Miss Martha's Corner House Tearoom. Our next program meeting is planned for Tuesday, July 2nd, 4:30 p.m. at the Corner House.

Judy and Mary gave an update on the kiosks. We have one unit already constructed and will soon be painted. Jarod is working on a map design and we are planning to have literature and other highlights for Cowan businesses that are Commercial Club members.

Judy reported on progress she is making with the Welcome Center. We have two volunteers we will try to place on the schedule. Judy also made a presentation to the Cowan Ministerial Association to seek their help and input as well.

It's not too early to plan this year's Christmas Open House for Cowan businesses. Last year we did open house in tandem with Winchester; however we were not pleased with our results. This year we are going to target Small Business Saturday, which will be November 30th. By this time the town will be decorated for Christmas and we will coincide with statewide campaign to patronize small businesses.

Judy also presented an idea to hold a bake sale and/or rummage sale to promote and raise funds for our 4-H scholarship. Ben suggested we focus more on agricultural products to keep with the 4-H theme. After some discussion, Ben agreed to meet with the Agricultural Extension office to see if we can get some ideas and knowhow from them before putting our plans together. We will try to hold this event or fundraiser in the early fall after school starts.

Jarod gave a presentation on the Railroad Park investment funds that were raised in the late 1970's from the Loose Caboose monthly rummage sale. Mildred Hatchett has turned those funds

over to the Commercial Club. After some discussion, the members decided to accept the funds and place them in our alternate account. We will then decide at a later meeting how to best use these funds to benefit the park and the log cabin in particular.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Jarod Pearson, Secretary