

Minutes of the Cowan Commercial Club

The Cowan Commercial and Community Club met on Monday, October 26, 2015 at Cowan Center for the Arts with the following members in attendance: Mary Bledsoe, Cheryl Boswell, Helen Brown, Steven Clark, Mark Ledbetter, Jarod Pearson, Jeff Pennington, Ronnie Pittenger, and Russell Sells.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and opened with prayer.

The minutes from the previous meeting were read and accepted for approval with one correction.

The Treasurer reported an operating balance of \$1,347.77 and a balance of \$3,613.38 in the designated park funds. Additional dues have been received as of this meeting and were not yet reflected in the account balance.

The first item of business was to review a draft budget for the organization. The members had a substantial conversation. Overall, the proposed budget looked acceptable albeit with a few minor changes. We plan to present another draft at the next meeting.

Following a discussion about membership dues, Mary made a motion to keep the \$40/year dues for businesses, but then make \$20/year dues available for individual residents. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

The members also discussed in detail how to properly spend money from the designated park funds. The members agreed to work toward specific ideas for railroad park improvements with long-term benefits. Among the ideas considered were new trash receptacles, a rebuilt gazebo, and a picnic table. We would also like to get the street clock rebuilt, perhaps through a fundraising effort.

The group consensus is to try and invest in the park over a two year period rather than all at once, though the final costs of the project(s) could change that.

Jarod gave an update on the Christmas Open House plan. We will implement a plan to issue Cowan Cash as part of the Grand Prize. We will also develop a "punch card" for the grand prize entries. And we will order some additional signage.

Russell concluded the meeting with an emphasis on outreach to other business and membership recruitment.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Jarod Pearson, Secretary