

Minutes of the Cowan Commercial Club

The Cowan Commercial and Community Club met on Monday, September 28, 2015 at Cowan Center for the Arts with the following members in attendance: Cheryl Boswell, Helen Brown, Steven Clark, Mark Ledbetter, Ben Merrill, Jarod Pearson, 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.

The Treasurer reported an operating balance of \$1,317.77 and a balance of \$3,613.38 in the designated park funds. Cheryl emphasized our need to solicit and collect membership dues. Jarod presented and distributed current invoices. Russell presented the idea that we offer a tiered membership level to encourage more private citizens to join and to encourage greater sponsorship among larger businesses. The members agreed to bring this item up for discussion at the next meeting.

Russell emphasized our need to pull the various aspects of the community together. From there, the business of the meeting turned to a list of ideas the members would like to see as future projects. We came up with the following list:

A town information booklet for newcomers and existing residents alike, similar to the “Guide to Living in Sewanee” that the University publishes;

Consistent and tastefully done trailblazer signs to direct people to the various businesses in town;

Improved protocol to get Commercial Club information and updates out to the community;

Some new gifts/trinkets to promote the organization and the community;

Broaden our sponsorship and support of the Halloween event and the Christmas parade;

Adopt specific projects, e.g. gazebo repair, playground improvements;

Develop new fundraisers for community projects: history booklet, chili supper, etc.;

Build a stronger partnership with local churches;

Look for grant opportunities, such as Main Street USA, which may require forming a 501 (c) 3 organization;

The next item of business is to revisit the idea of using the Cowan Commercial and Community Club naming convention. Jarod explained the reason this was done in years past was to diversify our membership to include more private citizens. After some discussion, Cheryl moved that we adopt the Cowan Commercial and Community Club naming convention from this point onward. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Russell asked that we discuss at next month's meeting our plans for the Small Business Saturday Christmas Open House. He asked that we bring to the table the idea of a punch card for grand prize entries and that incorporate "Cowan Cash" into the idea as well.

Russell also notified members of plans for ribbon cuttings in mid-October and encouraged everyone's attendance and support.

Cheryl mentioned that our corporate information with Franklin County United Bank needs to be updated. Jarod subsequently made a motion that Judy Wiltze's name be removed from the Commercial Club checking account and Russell Sells' name be added in her place. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Jarod Pearson, Secretary