

Minutes of the Cowan Commercial Club

The Cowan Commercial Club met on Monday evening, May 20, 2019, at Simpler Times with the following in attendance: Mary Bledsoe, Jake Britt, Kristina Britt, Kallie Britt, Rendi Britt, Helen Brown, Joyce Brown, Lisa Kelleher, Mark Ledbetter, Ben Money, Nick Nicholson, Mary Nicholson, Jarod Pearson, Kim Shelton, and Amanda Wiseman. Michelle Earl, the new Executive Director of Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, joined the meeting as a guest.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

The minutes from the previous meeting were read aloud and accepted as provided.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$1,890 in the main account and \$737 in the special account.

Mary gave the following update on our flag project: We have ordered and received 200 flags. Ben and Amanda agreed to put the flags in place on Saturday. We tentatively plan to leave the flags in place from Memorial Day weekend through Flag Day weekend. (The weather will help us determine if they need to be retrieved in between.)

Rendi passed around a document detailing our plans for the summer street fairs scheduled for May 25th, June 22nd, and July 4th. She reported that our fundraising for the T-shirts was better than expected, and that we have several donations toward refreshment coming in as well. (It was noted that the July 4th street fair may be rescheduled to a different day and a decision will be made closer to time.)

For Flag Day we plan to have a ceremony. Details are forthcoming. We have some outside groups, including the Disabled American Veterans and United Daughters of the Confederacy, who have pledged to help with the program.

Sweet Southern Spirit will have a ribbon cutting on May 24th at 10:00 a.m. Sweet Ellie's will have a ribbon cutting on the rescheduled date of June 1st at 12 noon. Mary informed us that the group of businesses "on the corner" will schedule a ribbon cutting soon. The group recently revamped and re-organized under a new company.

Jarod gave an update on the railroad park: We are working with an electrician to advance the electrical improvement project. We are also working with Cowan Railroad Museum to make some signage improvements. Our work day in the park in April was successful. Jarod also contacted Captain Scotty McKay about training some individuals to coordinate inmate trustees again. Scotty is trying to get a class together and will contact us when it is scheduled. Having trustees again will help us tackle larger projects.

Jarod mentioned that Cowan Commercial Club sent a letter in support of the grant application for the City of Cowan to develop a trailhead for the Mountain Goat Trail. Hopefully we will see good results from that! Mary requested that Jarod send a copy of the letter to the membership and include a link to the economic impact study.

Michelle Earl addressed the group. She is eager to work with Cowan Commercial Club to promote the town. We thanked her for attending and for her eagerness to work with us.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 24th, 2019, 6:00 p.m. at Simpler Times.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Jarod Pearson, Secretary