

2003

The meeting of the Cowan Commercial Club was called to order at 2:07 pm, Monday, July 28 at the Cowan City Hall. Mark Ledbetter led the group in prayer.

Jared read the minutes of the _____ meeting in Cheryl's absence. Motion to accept minutes as read was made by Mark Ledbetter and seconded by Susan.

Jared reported that while no treasurer's report was available, he did know that \$250 was donated to the Cowan Railroad Museum for purchase of a window. Mark Ledbetter extended thanks on CRM's behalf.

Old Business

Greenways

Streetlights: City of Cowan approved putting the greenway lights on the city's bill.

Pat reported that research into Solar streetlights has halted, as they are not currently available. While sidewalk solar lights are available, the results are not satisfactory. And installing several very expensive solar panels would not be cost effective. Further research is being dropped.

Progress has been made on the greenways: parking areas will be painted, and materials are available for construction of the Kiosks. Jennifer Geary is working on a town map for the kiosks featuring names and location of area businesses. Dennis suggested numbers on the map corresponding to further information, similar to Mall Kiosks.

Log Cabin

A donation box has been set up at the Log Cabin, and brochures are in place. Jared covered the initial cost of brochures and will be reimbursed from donations.

Entertainment Committee

July 25 was rescheduled to August 1 due to inclement weather. The beach party theme will feature water fun, hula hoop, clogging and more.

August 29 will feature a "Cruise In"

September 26 has a Country and Western theme.

October 31 will expand the tradition of Halloween in the Park.

November 28 will be the weekend of the Christmas Open House for area businesses.

Gift Wagon

So far the Gift Wagon contest is going over well because it encourages people to visit area businesses and helping us rebuild a sense of community. Keep encouraging people to visit other businesses and sign up.

Dennis asked if there were any guidelines for the Gift Wagon. Jared responded "Not at this time," but did say that he would round up the gifts and tickets on the day of the drawing. Jared also suggested that any tickets remaining in the boxes after the drawing be discarded, and a new contest started for the next month.

Franklin County Bank is giving away \$50 savings bond.

September's C&W night (Sept. 26)

Eric Cox is a rising country music singer who just stumbled onto Cowan and fell in love. He has just finished cutting his first CD in Nashville, and is willing to bring his band (Eric Cox and the Ridge Road Band) to Cowan to play for September's Fun Friday. They are willing to play for expenses only. Jared will cover meals and hotels, but additional funds are needed to cover other expenses.

The band will set up in the street behind the Welcome Center. The band will also be playing at _____ on Saturday night.

A discussion ensued regarding Bell Buckle, Wartrace and other cities having Cafes providing live entertainment, and the positive influence this has on other small towns.

Doug reminded everyone that Side Trax has live entertainment on the 3rd Thursday of every month.

Dennis made a motion that CCC donated \$50 to help cover expenses for Eric Cox and the Ridge Road Band. Second by Susan. Motion carried.

QB Class

Pat Underwood informed the group that the Ed Center will be offering a course through Motlow College at the Ed Center on Monday, August 4, Saturday, Aug 9, and Monday, Aug 11. Cost of \$275 will include registration, books, and Continuing Education Credits. A minimum of 10 people are needed to hold the course, and there are still 1 or 2 slots available.

Pat is also working on a conversational Spanish class to be held at a later date. Again, a minimum of 10 people will be needed to hold the course.

Mexican Restaurant

Jared reported that the property is going in foreclosure, and is tied up in legal proceedings. As soon as Roberto is able, he is still planning to open the restaurant. Roberto appreciates the encouragement he has received from people in Cowan.

NEW BUSINESS:

Octoberfest

Doug announced that the Friday night following Polly Crockett Days is Ocktoberfest in Germany. Side Trax will be featuring weeklong specials with German food and beer. Potentially this could grow into a larger event.

Advertising Area Businesses

Dennis invited other businesses to share flyers, brochures and business cards to be displayed in Callahans' Garden Center. Jared suggested a community bulletin board, and/or display racks for business cards.

Maryann Knowles suggested that 3 ring binders be placed in the Welcome Center and Cowan Railroad Museum featuring menus from area restaurants and information regarding area businesses. If the binders prove successful, the program could be expanded to other businesses.

Pat Underwood stated that she has two bulletin boards inside the Education Center that feature Cowan activities. On any given week, 100 or more visitors can pass these boards and see information.

Bakery

Susan announced that effective this Friday, August 1, the bakery will have new owners that plan extended hours and possibly using the second business area as a wi-fi café.

She also said she would like to see a better way to encourage local residents to support local businesses, as only about 5% of her business came from Cowan residents.

Stage

Jared announced that there are discussions ongoing about turning the existing stage into a train-viewing platform to capture the growing rail fan population.

With traffic and restaurants, we are no longer able to close down Tennessee Avenue South, so at a later date we can look at getting a permanent stage built North of Cumberland St. behind the Welcome Center.

Motion to adjourn was made by Pat and seconded by Susan. Motion carried.
Meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryann Knowles
Cowan Development Co.