

Minutes of the Cowan Commercial Club

The Cowan Commercial Club met on Monday, June 27, 2016 with the following members in attendance: Mary Bledsoe, Cheryl Boswell, Sherry Brock, Joyce Brown, Mark Ledbetter, Kasey Maxwell, Noni Moran, Jeff Pennington, Russell Sells, Nicholas Snow, and Bill Welch.

Russell called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. and Bill opened with a word of prayer. The minutes from the previous meeting were presented with a motion by Mary to accept. The minutes were accepted by voice vote and filed accordingly.

Cheryl gave an update on the treasury. Our operating account stands at \$1488.22 and our special funds stands at \$1,835.28. We have purchased more paint recently using the special funds.

Looking at our present board of directors, Russell asked if we wanted to proceed with electing Kasey Maxwell to replace Ryan Miller on the current board. Jarod made a motion to that effect, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

The members discussed whether to proceed with also replacing Ben Merrill and Steven Clark. The members concurred that we can wait and simply hold an election in September. Russell will appoint a nominating committee to get a slate in place.

Cheryl gave an update on the re-branding of Franklin County United Bank as Citizens Tri-County Bank. The conversion is scheduled for August 29th. The new company is larger and is expected to offer more products, more services, and more lending resources. All residents and businesses are encouraged to support our local bank, and there's a possibility our local branch can offer expanded hours and services in the future.

Mary reported that we will hold a ribbon cutting for the Rail Car and for Cowan Market in the near future. We are also in contact with the new Valley Cove Bistro and will offer them a ribbon cutting as well. Cricklewood has moved to a new location on East Cumberland and will do a ribbon cutting this fall.

In special projects the bricks from the northwest quadrant have been stacked and the old gazebo removed pending a revamp of that section.

Joyce reported that Halloween-in-the-Park is coming together, and the spook house in mid-October will serve as a fundraiser. The city's water bills will announce a candy drop-off at City Hall.

Jarod discussed ways we can develop and expand our presence on Facebook and on VisitCowan.com. Noni came forward to help and will report back at the next meeting.

The Heritage Festival needs workers, especially in the Kids Zone. We will need to set a date for decorating ahead of the festival.

The members also discussed a Citizen of the Year Award. Russell asked that we bring some ideas to next month's meeting.

In closing, the members offered a word of prayer for David and Daphne McCrory whose business was heavily damaged by fire and smoke this evening.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes of the Cowan Commercial Club

The Cowan Commercial Club met on Monday, April 25, 2016 with the following members in attendance: Mary Bledsoe, Cheryl Boswell, Jennifer Klein, Mark Ledbetter, Kasey Maxwell, Jeff Pennington, Russell Sells, Savannah Tiner, and Bill Welch.

Russell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and Bill opened with a word of prayer. The minutes from the previous meeting were presented with a motion by Cheryl to accept. The minutes were accepted by voice vote and filed accordingly.

Cheryl gave an update on the treasury. Our operating account stands at \$1597.22. The special account has a balance of \$1995.91 reflecting a recent paint purchase for the railroad park.

The following reports were provided:

- Fundraising - no updates, and we still need a chair
- Christmas Parade - a first meeting is scheduled, but no updates as of yet
- Special Projects - some work completed on the shrubbery and flower beds, old gazebo removed, bricks being removed and stacked for relocation.
- Recruiting - we are planning a ribbon cutting at Lapp's Greenhouse tomorrow. We will soon schedule a ribbon cutting at Studio K and at the new Cowan Laundry.

Mark reported that the first Cruise-in was a success and that the next one will be on May 20th.

A planning meeting for the Fall Heritage Festival is scheduled for this coming Thursday at 6 p.m.

Jarod read a letter from the Franklin County Arts Guild asking us to endorse one of their new grant applications. Jarod made a subsequent motion, which was seconded and passed. Russell signed the letter and presented it to Mark.

Russell brought some ideas forward to enhance the railroad park. Cheryl mentioned a picnic table as an idea we worked on in the past but did not implement because of funding limitations. Kasey offered to have her husband look at the idea and see if he could construct one to help save costs. Russell agreed to follow-up with him.

Russell also mentioned having some community decorating contests to boost civic pride and participation. After some detailed discussion, Jeff made a motion to plan for Patriotic (4th), Halloween, and Christmas with the latter being tied in to our Small Business Open House. The motion was seconded and approved.

After further discussion, Jarod made a motion to revise the passed motion and replace the July decorating contest with a "Decorate the Town" theme timed with the Fall Heritage Festival. The motion was seconded and passed.

The members agreed that Gift Baskets from the various businesses would be excellent prizes and great incentives for adding participants.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jarod Pearson, Secretary