

**Greater Muskogee Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism
Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, July 21, 2020 3:30 pm
ZOOM Call**

Members Present: Greg Eby, TyJuan Walker, Jason Hughes, Gary Dunlap, Michele Keeling, Joseph Fuller, Tammye Howell, Stephanie Isaacs, Steve White, Dr. Ronald Ramming, Dr. Jarod Mendenhall, Tony Pivec, Jon Stogsdill, Alma Pickle, Corey Sisson

Ex-Officio Non-Voting: Angela Wilson

Not Present: Joy Sloan, Eric Anderson, Stacy Burns, J. Tyler Hammons, Scott Robinson, Marie Synar, Marlon Coleman, Mike Miller

Staff: Justin O'Neal, Sherry Pilant, Corynne Jewson, Amanda Johnson, Amber Crall

Guests: Lucy Laird

I. Call to order – Greg Eby

- 3:33 pm

II. Oklahoma Blood Institute – Lucy Laird

Lucy Laird discussed the upcoming 6th Annual Muskogee Community Blood Drive. They have partnered with Arvest Bank to help close the gap in blood donations in the Muskogee area. The Blood Drive will be extended to 3 days, August 13-15, 2020.

Lucy Laird left the meeting at 3:42.

III. Approval of Minutes – Greg Eby

- Motion to approve minutes for the June 16, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting was made by Tony Pivec. Jason Hughes seconded.
The motion carried with the following votes: **AYE** – 15. **NO** – None. **ABSTAIN** – None.
The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Acceptance of June 2020 Chamber Financials – Jason Hughes

Amber Crall presented financial reports for June 2020.

- Joseph Fuller made a motion to accept the financial report. Tony Pivec seconded.
The motion carried with the following votes: **AYE** – 15. **NO** – None. **ABSTAIN** – None.
The motion carried unanimously.

V. President's Executive Report – Angela Wilson

- Angela Wilson presented the Executive Report
 - Total Chamber Members: 497
 - Total 2020 Membership Dues collected: \$142,874
 - 2020 Membership Dues Outstanding: \$18,714
 - Total Non-Dues Revenue Collected: \$79,810
 - New Members Since Last Meeting: 4
 - New Member Dues Collected in 2020: \$3,709
 - Outstanding Non-Dues Revenue for 2020: \$25,210
 - Total Tourism Revenue/Reimbursement: \$116,887

- Angela reported that the Muskogee City Council voted to take the Tourism Contract “in-house” as the contract with the City and the Chamber expired on June 30, 2020. The city council would like the Chamber to continue with a temporary contract through December 31, 2020. The Chamber Executive Committee is working with the City Manager and the City Attorney to do what is best with these taxpayer dollars.
- The Chamber did receive funding through the Department of Commerce Business Relief Program. This is the first funding source that we, as a 501c6 have been eligible for. There are talks of another round specifically for non-profits through the Department of Commerce.
- The Chamber & Tourism staff are back in the office part-time and working from home part-time; however the doors are still locked when we are in the office.
- As a staff, we will be starting preparations for the September Board Planning Retreat. As a board member, please start thinking about where you would like to see the Chamber go in the next 1 – 5 years. This is our opportunity to make changes and plans for the upcoming years.

VI. **Membership Report – Amanda Johnson**

Amanda Johnson presented the following member for approval: At Home Design, Bella Mea’s, Cowan Group Engineering, and Jay Hodge Chevrolet Cadillac

- Jason Hughes made a motion to approve the new members as presented. Joseph Fuller seconded. The motion carried with the following votes: **AYE** – 15. **NO** – None. **ABSTAIN** – None. The motion carried unanimously.

Amanda Johnson recommended the following members be dropped: Advance America, ERA C.S Raper & Sons – Dan Myers, Las Americas SuperMercado #7, Patriot Nutrition, Pecan Creek Winery, Rhea Lana’s of Muskogee, and Marc Susman, DDS

- Tammye Howell made a motion to drop members as presented. Jon Stogsdill seconded. The motion carried with the following votes: **AYE** – 15. **NO** – None. **ABSTAIN** – None. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. **Program & Committee Reports**

Staff presented Program/Committee reports(Attached).

VIII. **Tourism Reports**

Amber Crall presented the Tourism financial report for June 2020

- Tony Pivec made a motion to accept the June 2020 Tourism Financial Report. Jason Hughes seconded. The motion carried with the following votes: **AYE** – 15. **NO** – None. **ABSTAIN** – None. The motion carried unanimously.

Justin O’Neal presented the Tourism Director’s Report as follows:

- Over the last few months, we have been working to split the Tourism website from the Chamber. This week, the new Tourism site will launch. The Chamber website will be www.muskogeechamber.org, and the Tourism website will be what is currently used for both, www.visitmuskogee.com
- We are currently gearing up for the APT Professional Golf tournament at the Muskogee Golf Club. We are expecting 140-160 professional golfers for the week long tournament.
- The 2nd year of Okie Jeep Jam is coming in October. We are expecting a large number of registrations, as we have already hit the number of pre event registrations we had last year. There are many already registered from Kansas, Missouri and Texas. The event will be the first weekend of October.

IX. **Other Reports:**

City of Muskogee: No Report.

Port of Muskogee/Industrial Development: No Report.

Saint Francis Hospital: Michele Keeling reported on the current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic. There is still very much unknown about the virus. The Saint Francis Muskogee Campus has mandated the use of masks(including

staff, vendors and visitors) in their facility. Michele was happy to report that they have not had to furlough a tremendous amount of employees. Also, while the number of cases is increasing, there are fewer that are being admitted to ICU, mostly due to the average age of positives cases decreasing.

Muskogee Public Schools: Dr. Jarod Mendenhall presented on the plans for the 2020-21 School Year. There is a board meeting today (July 21, 2020) to finalize the school calendar. Dr. Mendenhall will present some new options tonight that would delay the start of the school year 2 weeks or more. MPS rolled out their plan which included both Traditional and E-Learning Academy. As of today, 817 out of around 5300 students enrolled have requested the virtual E-Learning plan. As a part of the traditional learning plan, masks will be required for all staff and students in all grade levels. Dr. Mendenhall stated, "We are doing our best to be logical in the decisions we make for the district."

Connors State College: Dr. Ronald Ramming discussed the plan for Connors State College for the upcoming fall semester. Dr. Ramming stated that they have spent most of the summer working on a plan for the upcoming semester. CSC is offering a variety of opportunities for students from traditional to virtual. Zoom will be offered to students who aren't feeling well, or may be quarantined, so they don't miss class. CSC has increased their janitorial budget to ensure they are providing a clean facility for students and staff. They are currently working with a church in the area, who is making and donating 2000 masks, as they will be required inside all building and classrooms on campus. As far as sports are concerned, many fall sports will be moved to the Spring of 2021.

Indian Capital Technology Center: Tony Pivec, superintendent of ICTC, discussed the plans for their upcoming school year. The biggest challenges they are facing is their process of bussing high school students to their facility for classes. They are working through how they can manage that process while still providing a safe environment. ICTC will be offering 5 different levels of instruction, from completely traditional to completely virtual. ICTC will also be working to provide a rotation for in person labs that would limit the number of students on campus at one time.

Adjourned 4:25 pm.

Minutes approved by:

Angela Wilson
President & CEO
Board Secretary

Greg Eby
Board Chair