

## Harrington Area Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes December 8, 2021

### Attendees

Cade Clarke, Kathi Matthews, Paula Harrington, Karen Robertson, Cindy Haase, Heather Slack, Joe Armand, Taunya Sanford, Cherie MacClellan, Julia Jacobsen

Called to order: 4:02 pm at the Post & Office.

The November 3, 2021 minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

### Treasurers Report

The treasurer's report was presented showing a balance of \$8,037.34. The \$10 fee to the Secretary of State for the annual report was paid.

Karen paid two years posting fee for the website server and needs to be reimbursed \$323.76. Cindy made the motion and Paula seconded. Unanimously passed. Karen investigated other servers' cost and found the current one to be a good value.

### Election of Officers for 2022

Secretary – Joe Armand

Cindy Haase – Treasurer

Paula Harrington – President

Cherie MacClellan – Vice President – Kathi Matthews and Joe Armand having nominated her.

Kathi moved to accept the above slate of prospective officers with Heather seconding. Unanimously passed.

### Tree Lighting and Hometown Christmas

The tree lighting went great. The music teacher gathered students from school who sang three carols. There was a countdown and Caroline Slack, Miss Harrington, lit the tree. Mike and Kathy Hoob and Tim Tipton had decorated the tree. The nativity scene was set up by the Chamber. There was an electrical issue which meant the nativity scene could not be lit up this year. The tree in that lot was planted to be the Christmas tree that would be used every year but as it has grown too large, it has been replaced with the new smaller tree. The property owner (the old garage on 3<sup>rd</sup> and Willis Streets) has been very willing to help out and is allowing us to store the tree and nativity scene pieces in his building.

Cindy Haase's husband has repainted baby Jesus' face and it is much better. He may be asked to touch up the rest of the nativity scene people.

The Christmas event went very well with very good attendance. Positive comments were heard from the Bazaar vendors. Paula's shop had a good day. The Opera House Rummage sale was very successful and the Marketplace vendors had a great day, too.

Terry Batterman may be available next year to do hay rides during Hometown Christmas. Paula will contact him in August.

The photos for the PTA were fantastic. About thirty-five families had photos taken with Santa. The Opera House plans to have Santa back there next year.

Having the recital on stage in the Memorial Hall brought a lot of people into the room. While Rebecca Hardy played the piano, it was very noticeable when she stopped. It was like there was “a hole in the room”.

In August or September, an announcement can be made to organizations and groups throughout Harrington stating “Everyone that wants to have a part of Hometown Christmas, come to the meeting on this date and this time. We will divvy up who will take charge of the different things happening. We will work together on the festivities.”

Not having an ATM currently was noticeable. Announcing that there is not one to all of the vendors would be helpful. Having cash dispensing options is important.

There are signs on each end of town saying we have an ATM. The Post & Office would like them replaced by signs announcing the coffee shop.

#### Community Forum

It would be nice to get back to having the annual forum in the fall season. This forum is for businesses and organizations to share what has happened in the last year and announce goals for next year. There is also some time for networking to look for ways to be collaborative. The hosts were rotated. Volunteer opportunities can be announced in the forum as well.

#### Christmas Wreaths

Paula and Cherie put the wreaths together this year and they turned out well. New ornaments were purchased for them and new pine cones were gathered from a campground. More types of decorations would be good for them.

Taunya suggested having students from the horticulture class or other students help assemble the wreaths. If we give them some notice, the school can see if any students want to volunteer.

#### Volunteering

People should be asked to volunteer directly and students can be asked to volunteer in every Harrington event.

#### Membership

In reviewing the current membership renewal mailing list, there are opportunities to bring more people into the Chamber. Can a committee be set up to work on this? The questions were posed “Why aren’t these people already members? What are we offering to people right now that would motivate them to become members? What are the benefits?”

One proposal is that in January’s general meeting, we set a February date to convene a membership committee or the general meeting attendees meet and figure out where we go from here. Another proposal is that we have a membership workshop before or after the regular meeting.

### School News

Taunya took the job shadowing idea back to the school and spoke with the FBLA teacher, Mr. Edwards, who was very open to the math aspect of it. The rules regarding background checks were discussed in this meeting. The question came up that if the job shadow is off of school property, outside school hours and the parent's permission has been given, would background checks still be required?

The pool is closed for the foreseeable future. There are a lot of cracks in the pool surfaces (walls and bottom) that need to be repaired.

### School Activities

- A school concert will be held tonight from 7:00 to 8:00.
- Tomorrow 4:30 is a Middle School game; at 5:00 graham cracker houses will be built and at 6:00 will be the first High School girls basketball game.
- There will be a job fair on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Sprague's school has been invited.
- Next Wednesday is Santa's Workshop. It is purposely small this year due to COVID.

### Chamber Mailer

Karen did not put all pages of the mailer on the website. The time for the pages to be scanned and the space used were prohibitive. It was decided that the cover letter will be sufficient for this time. If the pages are emailed to her the posting will be much easier.

**Please Note:** The next Chamber mailer submission deadline is Friday, March 4, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. The number of copies per submission is now **337**, full 8 ½ x 11 inches only, and can be printed on both sides of the page. A reminder closer to the date will be sent by email.

### Country Back Roads Map

Paula is available to join the committee if there is one as well as help with soliciting advertising. The map is re-published each year with new artwork every other year. New advertising space is very limited, if available at all, but current advertisers will need to be contacted to renew.

### Banner for Hometown Christmas and Harrington Vintage Country Fair

It was suggested that the wood signs on Highway 28 and Harrington-Tokio Road would be a good way to advertise Harrington Hometown Christmas and Harrington Vintage Country Fair. Matching wood panels that slide into the signs cost about \$500 each but vinyl banners can be hung on the bottom of the signs. Options for having the signs made were discussed. This topic will be added to the agenda for planning for 2022. A local sign maker would be preferable and might charge less for slat signage but Jeff at Etch Dreams in Odessa does the work if someone closer is not available.

Another suggestion is that on the day of events signs be placed at the entrances to town announcing that the events are happening.

Outdoor Christmas Decoration Contest

The Lions Club is sponsoring an outdoor Christmas decorations contest again this year. Two volunteers from the Chamber are invited to judge the houses.

Website Co-Administrator

Karen needs a new co-administrator of the website to replace Tim Tipton. Karen suggests a person who can be in the roll long term as changing administrators is not simple. Some people in the group felt that it should be an officer. Paula and Cherie are willing. The decision will be made among the officers outside of the meeting.

Scale Up Business Training Course

Janice Jantz, Executive Director of the Lincoln County Economic Development Council (EDC) announced that ScaleUp, a 9-week training series is being offered online to local businesses. “Scale Up Business Training addresses the key barriers to expansion businesses face when they attempt to grow. This program provides the tools necessary to expand capacity, improve value proposition and marketing efforts, interpret financial statements and go from working in a business to working on the business.” This course is fully funded by the Washington State Dept. of Commerce, therefore free to trainees. The next series begins in January.

Advertising Cost Reimbursement

The EDC will have funds available to reimburse advertising costs for Harrington Chamber and Non-Chamber events. This is another way that the EDC is working to help communities get back on their feet. More information should be available soon.

Meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 4:00. Location is The Post & Office.**