

Meeting Minutes | January 12, 2017

**West Jefferson Business Association**

*\*January 10, 2017 meeting rescheduled due to weather\**

A meeting of the West Jefferson Business Association was held at West Jefferson Town Hall on Thursday, January 12 at 8:30 am. Members attending included Terri Filipski, Wesley Barker, Andy Guion, Christopher Born, Dale & Becky Carlson, Travis Ritchie, Judy Current, Helenmarie Reavis, Rex Goss, Gary Brown, Kathleen Janowiak and Jane Lonon.

Treasurer Report- Wesley Barker gave the Board an update on the account balance and activity. Wesley said the current balance was $1814.64 as of December 31, 2016. Some recent expenses include a check written to the Town of West Jefferson for $1,225.00 for Light up the Town. $1,000 of this was from the Skyline/Skybest donation towards Light up the Town, with $225 from WJBA funds for purchase of several new lighted displays. Further, several membership dues had been deposited and paid online via PayPal. Gary Brown made the motion to approve the treasurer’s report, seconded by Christopher Born. A unanimous vote in favor.

The next item on the agenda was the election of the Board of Directors. The nominations received as of January 1, 2017 include: Andy Guion, Gary Brown, Rex Goss, Terri Filipski, Wesley Barker, Robin Miller, Chris Born, Travis Ritchie and Dale Carlson. Gary Brown made the motion to accept the Board of Directors nominations as presented. Andy Guion seconded with a unanimous vote in favor. Further, Terri explained a committee had been formed consisting of Jane Lonon, Gary Brown, Christopher Born and Terri Filipski to revise the current by-laws for the WJBA. The new Board was encouraged to review the draft by-laws and to vote on the revisions at the February meeting.

The next item to be discussed were the Antique Fair financials. Those in attendance were given a breakdown of the Antiques Fair expenses and revenues over the past 5 years of the event. Wesley gave a quick overview of the Antique Fair account and then explained to the Board what the Antique Fair committee is requesting. The Antique Fair committee wishes to apply for a 501c (3) status with the IRS and hopes to begin these steps towards applying for this within the next month. The Antiques Fair is requesting that the WJBA Board of Directors release its interest of the current monies contained in the checking account at Lifestore Bank named “Antiques Fair- West Jefferson Business Association, account number 621428 for the operation of the WJ Antiques Fair. The current balance of this account as of January 11, 2017 is $2,229.70.

Some discussion then took place about the Antiques Fair and the WJBA’s involvement with the Fair. The questions were asked what the role of the WJBA is and would the WJBA benefit from monies from the Antiques Fair. Some members felt the monies obtained from the Antiques Fair could be used by the WJBA to fund other activities throughout the year and felt the funds should still be housed under the WJBA name because the WJBA originally started the Fair in 2012. Also, a question was raised whether or not the monies contained in this account currently are really the WJBA’s and not just the Antiques Fair. Christopher Born said he would like to table this decision until the next meeting in order to review the information given on the Fair. Other members in attendance felt the monies should be released and to allow the Antiques Fair to break off onto their own organization as the WJBA hasn’t really contributed to the Fair since its initial startup. Tax liabilities were brought up and who would be responsible for the monies if owed to the IRS. After some further discussion, Gary Brown made the motion to relinquish the WJBA’s interest in the Antiques Fair monies as presented and to allow the Antiques Fair checking account, in the amount of $2,229.70, to be closed under the WJBA’s name and allow them to form their own organization. Further, any tax liabilities in the future concerning the Antiques Fair from the years 2012-2016 with WJBA, will be paid by the Antiques Fair. Dale Carlson seconded the motion as given. Wesley Barker said he will sustain from voting as he is Treasurer of the Antiques Fair. A vote was taken by the Board of Directors with the following in favor: Terri Filipski, Gary Brown, Andy Guion, Dale Carlson, Rex Goss and Travis Ritchie. Christopher Born opposing.

Christopher Born then discussed the mail boxes for downtown businesses. Christopher stated the importance of the mailboxes to downtown merchants and stated using the cluster boxes that contained 13 receptacles. These cluster boxes are 13” wide, 15” deep and 5” in height. The rental of boxes would be at an amount that is cheaper than purchasing a mailbox at the Post Office and the cluster boxes would essentially pay for themselves quickly. Christopher said he would prepare an analysis of these boxes, costs and location based on the feedback from the business inquiry and report back at the next meeting.

The next item discussed was a downtown ice skating rink and other winter activities. Several locations proposed for a possible ice skating rink included the grassy area behind the Farmers Market, in one of the Town’s public parking areas or the gravel lot behind the Backstreet Park stage. A consensus among the group was a winter event was needed in order to attract people to town during the months of January and February. Dale Carlson made the motion to form a committee for winter activities as well as a possible New Year’s event. Gary Brown seconded with all in favor. Some WJBA general members would be solicited to be part of this committee.

Finally, Terri suggested creating a walking map of Downtown West Jefferson in the 2017 WJ Visitor Guides such as a wayfinding map to make it more user friendly. Becky Carlson volunteered to help with the map design. Everyone was in consensus to create this map within the 2017 guide.

The next meeting of the WJBA will be held on Tuesday, February 14th, 2017 at 8:30am. With nothing further, the meeting was adjourned.