

Crete Area Chamber of Commerce
September 11, 2024
Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Betsy Janicki at 6:31 pm. Members present were: Judy Petrungaro, Betsy Janicki, Julie Ciarlo, Janel Geary, Jamie Healy, Gina Chavez, Katrina Seifert,, Eddie Ceoda. Guests, Somer Snow, James Pressler

Julie moved and Jamie seconded a motion to approve the August minutes as emailed. All present voted Aye.

The August treasurers' report was presented by Julie. Janel moved and Gina seconded a motion to approve the August report as presented. All ayes, motion passed.

We are up to a little over 40 members. We are looking into having membership letters go out with the Village business renewal letters. We need to send letters out to new businesses. Katrina made some suggestions based on other chambers that she is a member of. Scholarships for member families only, ambassadors who do outreach to businesses, and raffle entries for attendance at meetings and events.

Updates/Needs improvements: A discussion continues about the roles of board members. Gina is working on members and a discussion of dividing up the list between board members to contact for renewals. The logo needs to be updated. We do not have a digital file of the logo and it would look better if we added some color. Betsy created and shared some samples. Eddie is helping Jamie with the member spotlights. A questionnaire and google doc will be created to collect all the information.

Workshops: Still looking for our next workshop.

Marketing:

New Resident Bags: We need items from businesses for the bags. The mailing was delayed this month to make sure the bags were distributed to the locations mentioned as last month people came for the bags and had to be re-routed because the location had not received them.

Facebook/Website: The Farmers Market FB page is being eliminated. We will be focusing on just the main FB page for the Chamber.

Newsletter: The next edition will go out by October 7. Please have all the information to Jamie by September 27.

Garage Sale Days: October 11 & 12. Sarah will help with the map again. Applications are available on the website.

Crawl-O-Ween; We are changing it up this year. In the past people have joined the crawl without paid participation. This year we will not charge participants or bars. We will promote our

member bars' Halloween parties. We will have an online costume contest with a possible prize of \$100 - \$150 gift card to the participating establishment of their choice. Jamie is contacting the businesses for participation.

Farmers Market: The Farmers Market did well this year. The idea of shortening the dates was brought up. Due to commitments with the CUMC we cannot use the washrooms inside the church prior to the end of the school year in June and after school starts in August. Also participation from vendors and shoppers drops in the hot August days. We are now looking at June 16 – August 4.

Crete Country Christmas: The next meeting is Monday September 16 at 6 pm at the Library. Community Events and Parade forms are going out this week. On October 15 we will have a Crete Country Christmas Guest Bartending night at Smokey Jo's. We will be there signing up volunteers and committees, taking registration for the 5 K, and Grinch Breakfast. We will also have a QR code to accept donations. These will go through the Chamber Zelle account. Discussion on the Chamber purchasing a credit card machine was brought up again. Betsy said the chamber will not purchase one, because the fees are too high to keep it when not in use. Eddie suggested we investigate the square again, because it does not have the charges to own it.

Cruise Night: We will plan for the same season in 2025. June 2 – September 29 with no break as the 4th of July is on a Friday. Janel moved and Jamie seconded a motion to donate \$600 to EMA for all of their assistance each week with the Cruise Nights and Farmer's Market. This will be presented at the next Village Board Meeting.

Village News: The Village is partnering with VCA Forest South for a fall inoculation day. We will do it again in the spring as it has been done before and many residents are on that vaccination schedule. The gas station is making progress.

Next Luncheon is October 25. We will plan for Aurelios. Janel will call to confirm.

New Business/Business Updates – We need to cut a check to the ice cream vendor for the last market where they provided ice cream to the kids. Can we put scholarships on the agenda for next month and work on a system to re-institute these. Can we investigate the bylaws and what it states about people becoming members even if they are not part of a business, but just want to support local businesses. Maybe call them Chamber Champions.

Old Business: What are we doing about the sign on Rt 394? We need to address this next month.

Gina moved and Betsy seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 pm. All ayes. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by
Janel Geary
CACC, Secretary