

YS Chamber

Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, April 8, 2021 9-10:30a

Zoom Conferencing

Present: Ashley Mangen, Gery Deer, Ryan Aubin, Nick Gaskins, Ari Greenwald, Minerva Bieri, Nick Boutis, Alexandra Scott.

Absent: Brittany Baum, Gariot Louima, Sarah Courtright.

Meeting called to order at 9:04 AM by board president Gery Deer.

Liaison Reports

Glen Helen- Nick Boutis

Glen Helen continues to work towards full re-opening. Nick expects buildings may begin to open to public starting in June, but no reopening has been announced yet. Glen Helen is considering a port-o-john for their parking lot and is in the process of submitting a grant request for portions of their capital campaign. This campaign would help to fund upgrades such as parking, accessibility on 343, wayfinding signage, and the removal of the defunct Antioch power plant.

YS Arts Council - Nick Gaskins

YSAC is in the process of updating their artist directory. There is a new show up in the gallery - "The Hollow Ground Series," art by Greg Allan Jankowski, that can be viewed virtually on the YSAC website. Potential for going back to in-person gallery shows in late summer/early fall. There are plans for a virtual show honoring Brian Maughan.

March Minutes

No changes or updates. Ashley moves to approve. Ryan seconds. Board approves, with the exception of Ari, who abstains.

March Financials

There were more expenses in March due to the final payment towards the Wayfinding Signage Project and the printing of the Visitor's Guide. Many early membership renewals came in during March. Accounts Receivable line will be incorrect until staff can meet with Matt Cole to remove old unpaid invoices spanning several years. Gery and Ryan state that Alex and at least one board member should have access to QuickBooks closing date passwords. Ryan moves that Alex should have access to board passwords. Ashley seconds, all present approve.

Financial Action Items

-Contact Matt to request Quickbooks Closing Date Password Access for Alex (Ashley)

Committee Reports

Membership Committee

Ari mentions that he had trouble accessing the YS Chamber website due to the URL redirect. Alex will update the language on invoices to show the full URL instead of yschamber.org. Nick suggests adding a QR code to invoices. Alex will investigate.

Marketing & Communications Committee

Group continues to look into the possibility of monetizing Chamber Chats. Gery recently created a video for Jamestown and is interested in something similar for YS. Committee suggests reaching outside of the YS area for new members and working with the Greene County CVB for advertising. Gery stresses the importance of website updates. Committee & Staff request that the board reach out with any fundraising/revenue ideas.

Scholarship Committee

Applications are open, deadline is April 16. Committee will receive applications April 23. Scholarship donations webpage needs updating but Alex will be campaigning for donations once it's done. The Scholarship committee suggested that having 100% board participation for donations will look good on requests for donations, so Alex notifies the board to be looking for a future communication.

Leadership Committee

No updates, but there is a pool of potential candidates. Committee is open to suggestions for candidate names.

Committee Action Items

- Update Invoice Text & Website (Alex)
- Continue to send board/committee member suggestions to Nick (All)

Staff Report - Alexandra Scott

Written report submitted with Packet. Alex laments that she did not include the Yellow Springs Brewery – their second taproom, the Yellow Springs Brewery Barrel Room on Xenia Ave/Rt.68 opens to the public tomorrow, April 9. The wayfinding sign at the Train Station was damaged by wind. FastSigns will repair. Alex purchased a mailbox for the Train Station. Since the building hours changed for the pandemic, USPS mail delivery has taken place before the building was open. Karen purchased a P.O. Box as a temporary solution. The \$35 mailbox will save money and confer benefits for mail delivery beyond the end of the pandemic. After being contacted by a downtown business member about employment opportunities at local businesses, staff created an "Employment Opportunities" page on the YS Chamber website to share any opportunities from Chamber members.

Annual Meeting

Alex requested quotes from Mills Park Hotel and Wirrig Pavilion. Wirrig Pavilion did not respond, but Alex included quotes from Mills Park Hotel in the packet. Alex is requesting a vote on location so that reservation can be finalized. A "taste of Yellow Springs" option has been suggested as a way to showcase local businesses while offsetting the cost of food. Ashley suggests that a "taste of Yellow Springs" basket could be created to accommodate people who might not feel comfortable attending in person. Gery suggests a silent auction or additional fundraiser as part of the event. Ashley moves to approve the location at the Mills Park Hotel. Gery seconds. All present approve. Ryan will send an updated reservation to confirm. Ashley suggests adding an option to sponsor the Annual Meeting to invoices, as some businesses can pay directly from invoice but are not authorized to engage in additional event sponsorships. Alex will explore the option and work with Ashley on event budget and ticket prices. Annual Meeting committee will convene soon, with an open invitation to any interested board members.

Chamber Work Plan

Ryan suggests a paired down Street Fair. Alex mentions that she had received a suggestion for a live music event, and that a live music event/beer garden would be a good source of revenue for the Chamber. Nick suggests reviving the previously-discussed idea of a community appreciation event for the Yellow Springs community. Ashley suggests having a couple of beer garden events in the summer, possibly coinciding with the weekends when Chappelle's shows are held. Ashley suggests social distancing circles spray painted in the grass. Alex will explore options.

Action Items

- Convene Annual Meeting Planning Committee (Alex)
- Explore options for late-summer beer garden events (Alex)
- Meet about Annual Meeting Budget/Ticket Price (Alex & Ashley)

Nick moves to adjourn. Ashley seconds.

Meeting adjourned by board president Gery Deer at 10:33 Am.