

## **YS Chamber**

### **Board of Directors Meeting**

Thursday, May 13, 2021 9-10:30a

**Present:** Gery Deer, Ryan Aubin, Ashley Mangen, Nick Gaskins, Minerva Bieri, Sarah Courtright, Gariot Louima, Terri Holden, Brian Housh, Alexandra Scott, Jason Bailey (Guest)

**Absent:** Brittany Baum

Meeting called to order at 9:06 AM by Board President Gery Deer.

### **Liaison Reports**

#### **YS Schools - Terri Holden**

The 2020-2021 school year ends in two weeks. Returning to in-person schooling has gone well. Graduation will be May 27, with a car parade through town at 8:15 PM. There will be a socially distanced graduation ceremony on the high school property right after the parade. An outdoor prom will be held at Wirrig Pavilion this Saturday.

Summer programs for students are in the works and expected to be announced later this week.

Programs will include tutoring, art, music, and tennis.

YS Schools is holding a vaccination clinic for 16+ students to get their second shot next week, and the schools plan to facilitate vaccinations for 12–15-year-olds. A new principal is being hired for the Elementary School and will be announced at the board meeting this evening.

#### **Village of Yellow Springs - Brian Housh**

The Village's allocation for the American Recovery Plan is \$730,000. Village Council will be discussing how to use those dollars at their meetings in June. The money is intended for use supporting businesses, citizens, and infrastructure.

The proposed DORA (Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area) was controversial for residents. Brian is interested in the village having better communication channels to know the needs and values of the local businesses. Brian has some ideas about how to make this happen, but is interested in ideas. There will be a Town Hall meeting solely about the DORA on May 26.

Council will be discussing how to approach upcoming changes to mask and social distancing mandates. Legislation about TGLs passed at the May 19 meeting. The goal of the legislation was to stop houses from being removed from market for non owner-occupied Transient Guest lodgings.

Existing NOOTGLs have been grandfathered in as one property. There is a new \$500/yr fee for NOOTGLs and a \$1500 Affordable Housing Mitigation fee. There is a temporary limitation on non-operator occupied TGLs while Council conducts research to determine what is best for the Village. This will be reviewed annually. There has not been discussion of limiting other types of TGLs.

The Village will continue to look for other revenue sources for its Affordable Housing Fund, which will be used to support Affordable Housing initiatives in the Village.

#### **YS Arts Council - Nick Gaskins**

Gallery is still officially closed, but this may change in the next couple of months. There is a new show up in the virtual gallery, Multiple Dimensions by Brian Maughan. Brian, the sculptor for the Wheeling Gaunt sculpture that is in progress, passed away in 2020 and the show is being held in his honor. The virtual reception for this show will be on May 21 from 7-8pm on Facebook Live. Brian's family members and loved ones are expected to be in attendance.

The YSAC is still working on raising funds to complete the Wheeling Gaunt Sculpture Project.

### **Antioch College -Gariot Louima**

The college continues to recruit for Fall 2021. They anticipate roughly 50 new students starting in the Fall, a majority being first-year students. Most students committed for fall are from Ohio or nearby states. Antioch has already begin planning and recruitment for Winter and Fall 2022.

Antioch's presidential search is underway, with an application deadline at the end of this month. College leadership still includes three senior vice presidents - two of those being board members and one a former board member.

The college passed its re-accreditation review recently. There are students on campus. A formal commencement will be held virtually with some in-person events for the graduating class. College will be hiring a new director for the Wellness Center when it re-opens. The campus held vaccine clinics on-campus for students and staff and is hoping to have a majority of on-campus personnel vaccinated. There have been no COVID cases in recent months.

### **Glen Helen - Alexandra Scott, on behalf of Nick Boutis**

Nick was not able to attend, but submitted some updates via email for Alex to share.

Buildings are not open to the public for the time being, but this will be revisited in the coming months. In the meantime, the Glen has placed port-a-johns in its parking lot and is hosting a Nature Shop patio sale on weekends. Summer Eco Camps are largely full with just a couple of slots remaining.

Gery and Alex wrote a letter of support for Glen Helen to receive a grant for physical improvements, such as removing the old power plant, trail improvements, and wayfinding signage. Village Council committed to match these funds.

### **April Minutes**

No changes or corrections suggested. Sarah moves to approve. Ashley seconds. Gariot abstains. All other present board members vote to approve.

### **April Financials**

Commercial Insurance Policy was renewed in April. D&O insurance renewal is coming up. Still waiting to hear back about YSDC membership, Rent, and Internet Bills from the village. Staff continues to look for ways to reduce expenses but bringing in more revenue is top-of-mind.

### **Staff**

Gery has discussed with the Executive Committee and informs Alex that the Chamber Board would like to officially remove the word "Interim" from her title. Alex will discuss with Executive Committee at an upcoming meeting.

### **Guests/Introduction**

Jason Bailey, owner of Blue Core Technologies, a Chamber Member, has joined the meeting today. He is interested in being more involved with the Yellow Springs community and donating/selling/sharing his natural cleaning product, allnall, which is currently available at Menard's and Lowe's. Jason is interested in selling his product in local stores and donating to support local schools and/or charity with every purchase.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Membership Committee – Alexandra Scott**

Brittany and Alex have been working on a Facebook group for communication between the Chamber and its members. Board members have been invited and their feedback is welcomed before the group is opened to Chamber Members.

### **Marketing & Communications Committee – Gery Deer**

Committee has been discussing events and publicity. The committee continues to explore ideas for events, especially events that could bring in extra revenue in the summertime.

### **Scholarship Committee – Sarah Courtright**

Scholarship Committee met this Tuesday. Of the 9 applications submitted, only 4 were complete. This seems to be a recurring issue. Sarah would be interested in either volunteering or sending a volunteer to assist students with applications next year. The applicant chosen for the 2021 scholarship was Natalie Galarza, a YSHS student who plans to attend The College of Wooster in the fall. Committee is interested in ideas for more anonymity. There's currently about \$720 in the Scholarship Fund and the Chamber will need to fund the remainder of the scholarship if more money is not raised.

### **Leadership Development - Nick Gaskins**

Brittany has provided a few suggestions for potential board members. Nick continues to ask the board for names for board members. Ari Greenwald resigned from the board in April. Ryan suggests adding more downtown merchants to the Chamber Board.

### **Interim Director Report**

Tuck N Red's grand opening went well. Photos included in packet. Design Sleep moved their salesroom out of Yellow Springs and is using their YS location for private consultations. SpringsFest sponsorship from 2020 will roll over to 2022 event. Shred-It Yellow Springs was moved from 9/18 to 9/11.

Sarah moves to adjourn. Gariot seconds.

Meeting adjourned at 10:19 AM by Board Vice President Nick Gaskins.

### **Action Items:**

- Provide Feedback about Facebook Group (Board)
- Open Facebook group to members once feedback is received (Alex & Brittany)
- Continue to share ideas for new board members (All)
- Continue to share ideas for revenue generation (All)