

Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce
June 1, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Present: Talon Reed; Abby McKee; Mary Kell; James Soule; Arliss Duncan; Belita Palu-ay; Meghann Walk; Patti Keck; Sarah Woodbury; Lorraine Akin; Brian Dunn
Staff: Amanda Moreia
Guests: Eileen Bobek

The meeting was called to order at 8:06am.

Committees: Amanda asked everyone to look over the packet and let her know if they want to join a committee.

Events:

- Brian shared the status of the upcoming **Gold Rush trail run** on 9/30. Sarah and Helena (Trotting Fox) will be taking the lead on that event. Wednesday June 21 at 5pm at Bella will be a volunteer recruitment day.
- James reported on the **Inn event** from late May. 145 tickets were sold at \$30 each for the event. There was lots of enthusiasm – next year, possibly shorten the event by an hour and increase capacity to 200 people. There was some confusion on behalf of the restaurant owners regarding who was covering food costs – might be worth clarifying next year for both inn owners and restaurant owners. James suggested that maybe the trolley could be used next year. Sarah reported that the inn event was also very beneficial for business owners.
- Upcoming events: Christmas and Haunted Trolley – committees are meeting about this. There's a desire for a third trolley for the Haunted Trolley.

Marketing: Belita shared that Erica from the Pot Rack has agreed to join the committee, as well as Jackie Anderberg from the lodging market. She's also working to recruit someone with graphic design experience.

Finance: There was an update during the last meeting; Jerry is out today.

Second Trolley Purchase Update: Brian shared that the purchase of the second trolley is in the works. There's a sales contract underway; waivers for ticket purchasers in process; working on branding for the trolley; buying trolley stop signs. The second trolley stop will be right behind the visitors center. Hoping to get the trolley in action in early July. At some point, we'd like to paint the trolley, but for now there will be some decal-type branding to save money initially. Arliss shared that the community is excited.

Amanda, Brian, and Brian Roberts will be driving the route again to ensure accessibility and route timing. Oregon Wine Experience has requested a proposal for trolley service, as well. Brian requested additional ideas on how to link OWE to lodging and other downtown opportunities.

Brochures: Laurel is updating brochures (local and regional maps) with new content. They should go out by the end of the month. Deadline to be listed in the brochure is this week. Brochures will be distributed around the region in the rack card locations.

2023-24 Budget: Proposals have been submitted to the City and we will likely hear more in June. The fiscal year begins in July. Talon reported that the budget will be discussed at the June council meeting next week.

New Business:

- Amanda reported that we do not yet have a contract for our bookkeeper. Abby will send Amanda a template for a bookkeeper contract. Attorneys are reviewing the trolley lease and passenger liability agreements.
- Amanda shared that the quarterly mixer is tentatively scheduled at Williams Creek Ranch. Amanda is curious to know if that's too far out from town and would like feedback. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that the ranch is too far away. The whole chamber is invited, so around 50 people will generally show up. The group explored options. James suggested the Restaurant at the Jacksonville Inn. (James shared that there may be a soft open this week.) Amanda suggested that they might also consider the fall mixer. Amanda asked for everyone to reach out with ideas.
- Abby shared about the neighborhood kickoff party at Britt, which is admission free and a food drive for ACCESS. Abby will email out the postcard to the Chamber so people can share the news. The Chamber will have a table at the event, and Brian, Amanda, and Belita have volunteered to staff that table. Abby will send Brian more information about the table and what to anticipate.
- Belita shared about Third Thursday at BelitaSpace. Tickets are on sale now for \$45 each, and the first event is June 15, and July 20 is the next one that will benefit the Chamber and Victorian Christmas. The patio is open and free if people want to just come listen to music. Adam Gabriel will perform (the event will benefit Adam, but he doesn't know that yet). Jefferson Park will provide food and Hummingbird will provide wine for the first event. In July, Las Palmas food truck will be there. There are only 30 tickets available for each event. In August, everything raised will benefit Las Palmas. This event has grown since last year.

City Update: Talon shared that council is really excited about the new trolley. Brian shared that the chamber is happy to have closer contact with the city staff and council. Talon shared that the council is prioritizing keeping downtown lively and vivacious, and really helping grow Jacksonville as a family destination.

On Hold: Amanda mentioned that there are some grants that the Chamber should keep in mind for the future. The TLT grant has an August deadline. Amanda also suggested getting flags (like Britt uses) for the holiday season. Talon also mentioned that the Boosters are likely supporting the museum, and the Chamber can add something about the museum as part of the narrated tour on the trolley.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:16am.

Respectfully submitted,

Abby McKee