

**Austin Chamber of Commerce**  
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**[www.austinnevada.com](http://www.austinnevada.com)**  
**Minutes**  
**May 6, 2019**

**Board Members present:**

Ray Williams Jr, Dee Helming, Charlie Vaughn, Robyn Veach, Emily Hendrickson

**Board Members absent:** Philip Williams, Julie Mills

**Members present:** Candace Kelly

**Guests:** Kyla Bright

**Open Meeting:** 10:00 am

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Robyn Veach.

**Public comment for items not covered on the agenda:**

Charlie Vaughn discussed the emergency Lander County School Board meeting held in Battle Mountain on 4/xx/19. The meeting was held to discuss the School Boards plan to reduce the number of Board Members from seven to five and how that would impact the Southern Lander County School in Austin. The options were either five Board Members at Large or four Board Members at Large and one Board Member for the Southern Lander County. Four residents from Southern Lander County attended the meeting to express the importance of retaining a specific board member for Austin area. The School Board voted unanimously to present the option of four Board Members at Large and one Board Member for the Austin area, to the Commissioners at an upcoming meeting.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

With correction to read approval of April minutes.

Moved by Charlie Vaughn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ray Williams, motion carried.

**Approval of April Minutes:**

Moved by Ray Williams, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Charlie Vaughn, motion carried.

**Present Financial report for approval:**

Moved Charlie Vaughn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Emily Hendrickson, motion carried.

**New Bills Payment/Approval:**

Janess Digital Ink \$126.57 Road signage

Winnemucca Publishing \$332.72

OPI Printer cartridge \$26.10

Moved by Charlie Vaughn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ray Williams, motioned carried.

Approval to pay the penalty fee of \$240 for the late filing of the 990 tax form for tax year 2018.

Moved by Charlie Vaughn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ray Williams, motion carried.

**Office Report:**

Tammi noted that we had received a letter from the IRS in regards to a penalty charged to the Chamber by the IRS for late filing of the 990 tax form for tax year 2018, the penalty needed to be addressed before the due date of May 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Overview of Correspondence:**

Discussion of the Military motorcade scheduled for Sept. 2019 to be added to the calendar of events.

**Scoping letters from USFS & BLM:**

none

### **Guest Speaker:**

Kyla Bright from Lander County Planning Office, asked that we send a membership letter to her for LEDA to join the Chamber of Commerce in Austin.

Discussion began with Charlie Vaughn requesting more information to be provided to the town of Austin in regards to updates on the mapping and surveying. Kyla stated that there are 4 parcels per map and that 15 maps are ready. Charlie Vaughn and Ray Williams both asked for more communication from Battle Mountain for this issue. Also Charlie Vaughn, Ray Williams and Dee Helming would like to see more meetings in Austin for the mapping issue

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **www.austinnevada.com:**

Continuing to work with Charter Advertising to update website. Discussion with the 5 board members present about adding a New Business packet to the Chamber website. Robyn Veach requested that Tammi send an email to Bruce about doing this.

#### **PET:**

17 Grants submitted to Travel Nevada on behalf of the communities along the P.E.T. next meeting to be held on August 9<sup>th</sup> in Kingston at Miles End Lodge B&B

#### **Austin Planning:**

Discussion of reviving the Austin Planning group.

#### **Food Bank:**

Continues to serve 40-45 people approx 19 families. They receive 2 deliveries monthly. Having difficulty distributing all perishables. Tammi and Robyn will continue to post Food Bank schedule on Face book. Charlie Vaughn stated that they are needing to fill a need at the middle of the months.

#### **Geothermal updates:**

No update. Dee Helming stated that she would no longer provide Geo-Thermal updates. Robyn Veach requested contact information so that the chamber can continue outreach with Ormat. Dee provided the name of J.C.; John Christianson is the contact and stated that his email would come up on the computer.

#### **New marketing ideas:**

Ray Williams asked if we were pursuing radio ads as discussed in previous meetings, Robyn explained that we will look into it for next grant cycle as we didn't have enough time to research quotes and radio ad options prior to this years grant cycle closing. Robyn Veach stated that she would like to pursue an "Oktoberfest" idea.

#### **Austin Internet:**

No Update. Dee Helming stated that she had sent an email to JoJo Myers-Campos the NV State Broad Band Manger to receive information for an update to the Lander County Commissioners at the June Commissioners meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Grants:**

Robyn Veach is still working with Lander County C&T to close out (reconciliation process) grants from previous years that have fallen through the cracks.

#### **Bike Trail Updates:**

No update

#### **Review of Bylaws:**

A copy of the current Bylaws was emailed to the entire Board at Charlie Vaughn's request so that we may begin reviewing in earnest at the June Chamber meeting.

**Mainstreet:** Kyla Bright stated that committees will be formed and Austin will form its own committee.

**Wells Fargo checking and savings accounts:**

Robyn Veach and Dee Helming completed the update of authorized signors for the Wells Fargo Checking and Savings accounts. Current Signors are: Robyn Veach, Dee Helming, Patsy Waits and Philip Williams

**Rural Round Up:**

Robyn Veach and Dee Helming spoke about the positive networking experience at the recent Rural Roundup Fallon. The introduction of the Main Street Program to Nevada was a hot topic of the event.

**Lincoln Highway Car Show:**

Tammi presented the cost breakdown of expenses and net profit of this fundraising event for the Greater Austin Area Chamber of Commerce.

Total Expenses: \$3732.11

Total proceeds: \$3887 (Includes \$1500 LCC&T Grant)

Net Proceeds: \$154.89

As this event is one of three fundraising events for the Austin Chamber, specifically to raise funds for operating costs of the chamber, it was discussed that although the event was a good time, how could we improve the event in the future. Robyn suggested that the Chamber be more involved in the spending of the chambers money and that the sponsoring car club should not be making unilateral decisions with the chambers money when they have no skin in the game. Missed communication from the car club organizers to the Chamber Office presented a number of obstacles for the office coordinator in the successful execution of the event and created last minutes fires that needed to be put out the morning of the Car Show. The lack of vendor information provided to the Chamber became an issue when haphazard placement of food vendors ended up costing the Austin Volunteer Fire Department to loose money on their fundraising efforts. The Lack of Trophy sponsorship. Robyn Veach asked “why we only received \$40.00 in trophy sponsorship”,? With \$600.00 in trophy’s awarded. Also, Robyn Veach asked why none of the Kingston businesses were not given the opportunity to sponsor a trophy? Dee Helming’s response was “She did not have time to get the letters out”. In regards to the Kingston businesses Dee Helming’s response was “Oh well”. Dee Helming sharply asked if we were no longer going to hold this event, Robyn explained that in her opinion the Chamber should continue this event but with much heavier oversight and involvement from the Chamber. Dee Helming’s solution to making the event more profitable on the books was to not advertise the event in local publications. Robyn Veach asked what is the chambers purpose but to create and advertise compelling events in the community that will bring visitors to the area and in turn support the local Merchants and economy.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Annual Membership Letter & Drive: It was discussed to raise membership dues:

Business Membership current \$35.00, proposed increase to \$40. 00. Associate Membership current \$25.00, proposed is \$30. Individual Membership is \$12.00, proposed increase to \$20.00. Proposed increases in dues will be presented and voted on at the Annual Membership meeting in September. Tammi has received a listing of all current Lander County business licenses to use in the membership drive, she will also be contacting Nye County to receive current business listing info for Northern Nye Co. Robyn is in the process of updating the membership letter and creating a version for possible new members, to be sent out the first week of June.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY AND AREA:**

Robyn Veach mentioned the Kingston/Gillman Springs clean day on 06/01/2019.

Robyn Veach wrote a letter on behalf of the Austin Youth Center asking for a follow-up community meeting to be scheduled with Austin community representatives in attendance. Austin is asking for some alternatives to preserve the history of the buildings originality. Also the Chamber Board voiced their concerns about keeping the Bell Tower. This letter was sent to the Lander county commissioners and Anna Penola. (Copy of the letter is attached)

**PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ANY ITEM NOT COVERED ON THE AGENDA:**

none

**Adjournment of Meeting:**

At 12:17 am motioned by Emily Henrickson, and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Charlie Vaughn, motion carried

Signed

Robyn Veach

