

Norwood Chamber of Commerce of Wright's Mesa
Executive Board Meeting - Minutes
October 11, 2022, Lone Cone Library

I. Called to Order at 12:02 p.m.

Board members present in person were:, Gretchen Wells, Terri Lamers, Nola Svoboda, Becky Hannigan, Bernice White

Guest members present were: Todd Bittner, Damien Brooks, Carrie Andrew via phone, Amanda Pierce, Beverly Taylor

II. Approve Minutes

Terri moved to approve August and September's minutes with changes, Bernice seconded, all in favor.

III. Officers' Reports

Terri Lamers / Treasurer

● **Treasurer's Report**

- The beginning balance for September 1, 2022 was \$13,251.56. Deposits of \$290.05 were credited to the account. Disbursements of \$921.88 were made. The balance on September 30, 2022 was \$12,619.73. There are outstanding checks for \$500 for the rodeo and \$1,130 for Coach's Mother.
- Bernice motioned to approve the treasurer' report, Becky seconded.
- Terri said it is time to work on the annual budget, Gretchen asked if there needs to be a special meeting. Terri said she typically hammers it out and shares a draft with the board.

Gretchen Wells / VP (Acting President)

● **Todd Bittner - Norwood School District**

- Todd said he would love for the school district to be a member of the chamber. He was asked to join today's meeting to give his two cents.
- School will be purchasing the town's 19 acres, however there is a lot that has to happen before building a new school.
- West End received the state's second largest waiver in the history of the state in terms of their best grant in concerned. Instead of having a 6 million bond capacity, they only had to pass a \$900,000 bond. The received from that \$34 million. They're approximately \$12 million over budget.
- In order for the Norwood school district to do something similar, because of the increase in post-Covid costs, it would cost millions and millions of dollars.

- The school is currently on 8 acres and needs no less than the 19 acres lot.
- Todd has seen what happens when others buy up land and how expansion can destroy a community without proper planning.
- Todd said there are horrendous teacher shortages everywhere. Damien asked if it was housing related. Todd explained there are many factors including housing and pay.
- Todd is very interested in helping with student volunteer hours and finding things that would keep kids here.
- Todd believes that what Norwood does with its main street and the spindles that come off of it will be essential in how we grow our community and the school wants to be a part of that process.
- Kids are being bused 45 minutes down dangerous roads to Telluride where there are more offerings for students.
- The board meeting to purchase the 19 acres will be this coming Tuesday.
- The school will be applying for BES grant in February. They have to tell the state by the second week in November that they are applying for the grant, then spend three months writing the grant. The state will tell the school in May whether or not they get the grant. The state will tell them their bond capacity and will ask them to go for that bond capacity. The school will be asking for a waiver and then will start working on a bond campaign. If the bond fails, they will still get the BES grant but will have to go after a bond the following year. If they are denied the BES grant, the state will come back and tell the school what they think they need.
- The BES account is \$105 million. The requests were 405 million so the state will have decisions to make. Todd said it's not hopeless because the current building was built in 1968.
- Gretchen asked what the chamber can do to help. Todd said they will end up needing to ask businesses what impact the school has on the community. They will be asking the chamber if they support it, and if not, find out why they don't support it.
- Damien asked what the enrollment is currently, Todd said 172.5. Pre K - 12th grade.
- Terri asked how many children go to Telluride or Nucla/Naturita. Todd estimates 25-40 kids go from Norwood to Telluride.
- Nola asked with Nucla's new school if Todd expects more kids to travel that way. Todd said yes in the short term. Norwood may experience a reduction in enrollment for a short period of time.
- Gretchen believes that you don't have a community if you don't have a school and she feels its part of the chamber's role to do what it can for the school. Todd sees the chamber's role growing exponentially over the next 18 months. Todd's looking at 30 years of the school district not being part of the Norwood community, and 30 years of issues, concerns and

troubles and its been 14 months, he just needs to figure out where all those pieces are.

- **Damien Brooks**

- **Noel Night Proposal**

- Damien purchased the old hardware store building. In cleaning it all out, he found an old wrapped Christmas presents that said "Noel Night" on them.
- Damien would like to open the entire hardware store to be warm, lit and beautiful and open up a bazaar for anyone in the community who wants to set up a booth.
- The town offered a one day no tax, no biz licenses for those setting up booths. Damien would not be charging for booth space.
- Damien is considering a choir or live music.
- Damien would need someone in town who can be there to help set up where booths go.
- Terri pointed out that there were two places with this sort of thing last year, town hall and The Livery. She also mentioned many of those vendors set up for the entire weekend.
- Damien asked what part the chamber would like to have in it. He said the chamber's ability to market and get the word out would be helpful.
- Nola will reach out to the apple core project to get a list of their vendors who might be interested and to reach out to.
- The chamber agreed they should have a booth to promote the chamber and gain memberships.

- **Park Idea on the vacant lot between Sam's & Auto Store**

- Damien had also purchased this lot. Carrie and Damien had started talking about creating a space for food trucks and trailer/RV parking. They envision a park plaza called Sun Plaza. A place for vendors, similar to a pocket park.
- Carrie submitted a grant for 25K through the library which will be awarded in February.
- They would like to have a mural on the auto parts building next to park. Carrie would like to have it done by the same artist who does the murals in Delta.
- Damien would like to add sun sails similar to the food truck court in Moab. Food vending carts could be on the sides.
- The Library intends to provide programming in the park that creates outreach for the library and gives people a place to gather in town. Bringing the library to town.

Nola Svoboda / Secretary

- **Marketing Report; website, social media & blog**
 - Nola previously emailed her marketing report to the board. There wasn't time left for further marketing discussion.

Becky Hannigan / New Member At-Large

- **Outstanding Invoices**
 - Becky will follow up with the roping club and Coach's Mother on invoices.

Bernice White / Member At-Large

- Nothing to present.

IV. Old Business:

- **No Old Business**
 - **Officer Nominating Committee**
 - Gretchen declared the entire board is the nominating committee.
 - **Banner Hanging**
 - Gretchen said the chamber really isn't in charge of the banner, the town and the state are. Amanda clarified that it's just the state.
 - Because hanging banners takes a lot of work, Gretchen made a banner hanging request form.
 - Gretchen clarified the process of hanging banners with the town and the issues the chamber has had, the board discussed specific pain points that have come up. Gretchen said there have been a lot of issues and she would like to go to see if the town would be willing to help.
 - Gretchen said the chamber is a volunteer board and board members have to volunteer with hanging the banner.
 - Becky discussed issues the chamber has had with putting up and taking down the banner. The board agreed to do a special meeting on October 27th at 2pm to discuss resolutions for the issues.

V. New Business

- **Noel Night**
 - Library will be doing cookie decorating, considering doing it at Demian's building instead of the library.
 - Terri said she will run a hayride again.
 - Gretchen would love to find carolers. Becky suggested seeing if Cady Metzger would DJ again.
 - Gretchen will contact NFPD to see if they will be doing the chili cookoff, and where.
 - UMC will have hot cocoa with Santa.
 - Katie will be doing Santa at the Divide

- The board will decide who to reach out to for Grand Marshal. Terri asked to table the discussion till the November meeting.
 - Nola asked if the grand marshal needed to be an older, long-time local or if it could change to nominating someone who has been very involved in the community.
 - The board discussed changing the Grand Marshal to being a “Community Star.” “Community Star” and “Community Business.”
 - Nola mentioned someone who is super involved in the community, like Emily Haight.
 - Becky said she believes it would be open to every business, not just members. Nola suggested the business be one that does a lot to give back to the community such as The Divide or the food bank.
 - Gretchen will reach out to Emily to see if she is interested.
 - Amanda reminded the board to let her know what time the parade will start so she can submit to CDOT
- **Noel Night Banner**
 - Becky will turn in the application for the banner.
 - Becky presented Katie’s designs for the banner. Nola will finish her design and send it around. The board will decide between designs and vote via email.
 - Nola had questions about going through Coach’s Mother for the Noel Night banner because of the previous delays with banners and that the chamber had discussed reaching out to Britt Hoff to get estimates for banners.
 - Becky clarified that the delay was actually not the fault of Coach’s Mother and discussion of the delay was not warranted.
 - Gretchen said she will still reach out to Britt to get her estimates so the board can decide in the future.
- **Town Updates**
 - **Shop Local Campaign**
 - Amanda reminded the board that the town did a shop local campaign. Every purchase over \$40 got people an entry to win a Yeti Cooler.
 - Town is planning to do the campaign again. Amanda is thinking November 1 through Noel Night.
 - Giveaway may include a fire pit and a gift card wreath to give away.
 - The chamber donated \$100 last year, Amanda asked if the chamber would like to donate again. Amanda just needs to know what the chamber would like to donate so she can add it to the information.
 - The board agreed they would like to donate something and Terri said the budget is looking good.
 - If the chamber donated half, Amanda estimated \$300.

- Becky made the motion that the chamber donate \$300 to the Town of Norwood for the Shop Local campaign. Bernice seconded, all were in favor.

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- **Quarterly Business Meeting**

- Tabled to special meeting on Oct. 27 at 2pm.

- **Annual Meeting**

- Tabled to special meeting on Oct. 27 at 2pm.

- **Special Meeting - Election of officers / Hanging of banners / Quarterly & Annual Meetings**

- October 27th, 2022, at 2 p.m., Library and Zoom

VI. Public Comment

- No Public Comment

VII. Adjournment: There was no motion to adjourn. Meeting ended at 1:46 p.m.

Next Chamber Executive Board Meeting: Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 12:00 p.m., at the Lone Cone Library.

Submitted by Nola Svoboda