



Cross Plains Chamber of Commerce

125 S. Main St. | PO Box 233

Cross Plains, TX 76443

(254) 725-7251

crossplainschamber@yahoo.com

Cross Plains Chamber of Commerce Special Session Meeting Minutes

Date: September 23, 2024

Location: Cross Plains Chamber Office

Meeting was called to order by Tiffany Holland at 12:02PM

Members Present: Bryan Bennett, Tiffany Holland, Kristin Boggs, Sheila Payne, Allen Williams, Susan Schaefer.

Others Present: Ruby Wilke

Members Phoned In: Dana Sons

Members Not Present: Ashley Smith, Jake Estes

New Business:

- a. The Board discussed options on presenting the EDC with building purchase options. Dana Sons and Sheila Blackburn recused themselves of this discussion and voting due to personal interests at stake.
 1. Discussed the option asking the EDC to loan the Chamber of Commerce the money to purchase the building with \$0 down at 3% interest with a \$10,000 forgivable grant at the end of the loan.
 2. Discussed the options of asking the EDC to purchase the building and lease it to the Chamber of Commerce for a 1 year period with affordable lease payments with options to buy at 3% interest after the year lease. Bryan Bennet believes this would be a great option. Susan stated this would give us time to get the 501c3 status so that we could get a grant to help with purchasing the building and get our financials in order for continuity for the grant.
- b. The Board discussed funding options:
 1. Susan Schaefer presented a Proposed Budget for FYE 2025 so that the Board could look at our projected Revenues over Expenditures for the current fiscal year before moving ahead with the meeting. Currently the projected expenditures are over revenue by \$5,151.87. This will need to be addressed in order to apply for grants.



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2. The Board tabled the discussion of the progress of the 501c3 status, but agreed that having the 501c3 status would be beneficial towards helping the Chamber get a grant to pay for the building.
 3. Discussed the grant for renovations found under current 501c6 status and discussed applying for that if needed in January 2025.
 4. Discussed increasing dues for members which could help cover our operation expenses and/or building expenses. Ruby presented other Chamber of Commerce dues for the surrounding areas. Our membership dues are lower than all of them. Susan suggested that if we are to raise the dues, that a lot of companies would prefer a quarterly draft of their accounts as opposed to having to manually pay yearly. Ruby suggested that we offer "tiers of membership," as some of the surrounding Chambers do, that offer Membership perks to the higher tiers of membership that we are now giving to all of our members. The perks are valued at over \$600 per year. The Board will further discuss raising our membership dues at the next Board meeting. Susan stated that we need to let our current and future members know the perks of membership so they know what their memberships benefits are.
 5. Discussed proposing asking for monetary help from Cross Plains EDC and/or the City of Cross Plains to assist with overhead funds, as Dublin and other surrounding Chambers do. It was stated that the City of Cross Plains/EDC gives money to local entities. Tiffany offered to speak with Debbie Gosnell about asking for the City's help. Susan suggested we propose help for specific costs and not just ask for money to cover operational cost, as this would be harder to obtain, and might not be covered as something the city can provide help with. The membership dues should be what covers operations.
 6. Discussed fundraising options for raising funds for the building. Tiffany suggested that we should do a fundraiser specifically for raising funds for building. Ruby came up with the idea of having a raffle for a gift card Christmas tree that we auction off. The Board loved the idea. Susan added that we should open a savings account strictly for monies for future purchase of the building. Allen agreed, adding that we should discuss adding a line item for Legacy on the budget as well for building the future Chamber's endeavors. This will be discussed further at the next Board meeting.
- c. The Board discussed other office location possibilities:



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1. Discussed renting a spot at the Housing Authority. Kristin was still checking with HUD to determine if that was a possibility.
 2. Discussed renting a spot with Project Pride.
 3. Discussed purchasing a mini-building and have it put somewhere, however, this would be expensive to have electricity and plumbing hooked up.
 4. Discussed Ruby working from home. The Board all agreed that we need a presence in the community and that working from home would be a detriment to the Chamber of Commerce.
 5. Other options were discussed. Dana Sons proposed an option that she purchase the building and allow the Chamber to stay for 5 years rent-free with her also having a business in the building. Susan stated that this would give the Board extra time that is needed to get the financials and budget in order and to raise funds to put towards another location. Bryan believes that this would be beneficial for us, as our main goal is to maintain a presence on Main Street. Allen asked if the Chamber would still be responsible for electricity and water. Dana stated the Chamber would, and that her business would not be something that would use an excessive amount of utilities. Ruby stated that this would also be beneficial to the City, as the space would generate tax income. Dana stated that the business that she would like to start would not be competing with other area small businesses. The Board likes this option.
- d. Susan Schaefer made a motion not to present the EDC with the option to buy the building, and instead allow Dana Sons to buy the building with a 5-year agreement that the Chamber be allowed to use the office space along side Dana's business. Allen Williams seconded the motion. Sheila Blackburn and Dana Sons abstained from voting. The remaining members of the Board voted. Five Ayes. Zero Nays. Motion carried.

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Bryan Bennett. Allen Williams seconded. The Board Voted. Seven Ayes. No Nays. Motion carried. Tiffany Holland thereupon called the meeting adjourned at 12:58PM.

Date of Next Meeting is October 14th at 6:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kristin Boggs

Minutes approved by: Tiffany Holland, President