



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 Regular Session Meeting Minutes

Date: September 9, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Location: Cross Plains Chamber Office

Meeting was called to order by Tiffany Holland at 6:02 PM

Members Present: Tiffany Holland, Kristin Boggs, Sheila Blackburn, Dana Sons, Jake Estes, Allen Williams, Susan Schaefer

Others Present Ruby Wilke

Members Phoned In:

Members Not Present: Bryan Bennett, Ashley Smith

Minutes from the Previous Meeting: Were read by the Board. Dana Sons made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Allen Williams seconded. The Board voted. Six Ayes. Zero Nays. Motion carried.

Financial Report: No Financial Report was given, as internet services were down this week. Ruby Wilke will email financial statements when the internet has been restored.

Old Business:

New Business:

- a. Discussed Chamber Banquet. The Banquet was a success. Next year, would like to discuss hiring a caterer for the food prep and meal. Would like to make it more clear that the airfare isn't included in the vacation packages for the silent auction. Would like to find a speaker earlier and have the Board look over, critique, and approve the speaker's speech ahead of time. Discussed paying Ruby for her time for preparing and making the food for the banquet this year. Will vote at next month's meeting.
- b. Discussed when to start Chamber Socials on the 2nd Wednesdays of each month to allow the community to know what the Chamber is doing, to communicate better with our business members, and to gain new memberships. Susan said that we should wait until spring to start them. Dana believes that since they are free to us and that it doesn't take much planning, that they should start sooner. She said that they do them in Coleman, and have been a positive experience in their community. Sheila agreed that we should



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go ahead and start soon. Kristin Boggs made a motion to start the monthly Member/Chamber Socials on October 9th, 2024 at 7:00AM at Cottonwood Downtown Cafe. Susan Schaefer seconded. The Board voted. Six Ayes. Zero Nays. Motion carried.

- c. The Board discussed having a Hunter's Feed Committee. They decided they need all hands on deck since the feed was two months away. The Board will start getting together door prizes and swag as soon as possible. The next Community Meeting for Hunter's Feed will be September 23rd at 6:00 PM. The Board is hoping for a bigger turnout from the community. Tiffany suggested we start a Remind for the Chamber so people could get text messages from us reminding them of upcoming events, such as the Community Meeting. Others suggested we get the news out about the Community Meeting by making sure everyone shares the post on social media, and ask the school to pass out flyers to have the kids give to their parents. Allen stated that he could pass out flyers at the bank. Ruby suggested asking Lowe's to put flyers in the grocery bags. Tiffany said she will also ask Debbie Gosnell to post it through the City's social media.
- d. The Board discussed the gun raffle for Hunter's Feed. Ruby found some 308 bolt action rifles online that the Board discussed. The Board would rather buy locally. The Board briefly discussed giving a gift certificate instead of a rifle, but decided that they would have more ticket sales if the physical rifle was at the Hunter's Feed for people to see. Sheila and Dana gave a few suggestions of local gun stores. Susan Schaefer made a motion to allow a budget of \$900 to have Bryan Bennett buy the gun with. Sheila Blackburn seconded. The Board voted. Six Ayes. Zero Nays. Motion carried.
- e. The Board discussed advertising for Hunter's Feed with Brownwood News and KOXE. Discussed the pros and cons of advertising, and eventually came to the decision to advertise in order to grow the community, help the local businesses, and help landowners find people to lease to. Sheila Blackburn made a motion to advertise with KOXE and Brownwood News. Dana Sons seconded. The Board voted. Six Ayes. Zero Nays. Motion carried. There will be live radio ads. Briefly discussed who would go on the radio ads. Will discuss further at the next meeting. The dates agreed upon for advertising are October 16th and October 30th.
- f. The Board discussed dates for Summer Bash. The Board decided to move away from Howard Days and would like to present the Bash as a "Kickoff to Summer" event and host it earlier. Some discussion was had to maybe move the bash back downtown, but will need to confirm with TXDOT that they can/will help us slow traffic. Will also need to discuss with the City if we would be able to block off some side streets to use for stages, bounce houses, etc. Discussed also having more kid-focused activities and charging for wristbands instead of charging for parking. Discussed having it later in the day so that food vendors could benefit from lunch and dinner rushes. Kristin Boggs made a motion



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for the Summer Bash to be scheduled for May 31st, 2025. Jake Estes seconded. The Board voted. Six Ayes. Zero Nays. Motion Carried.

- g. The Board discussed the Lunch and Learn beginning on September 16th at 12pm. Ruby reserved 20 lunches and a \$200 limit with Backwoods. Sheila Payne sponsored the Lunch and Learns for the rest of 2024. Sheila is also letting us use the projector. She is allowing the Chamber to use the 15 minute introduction for Chamber Promotion. We still need to find sponsors for next year. Ruby asked that the Board members who will be attending will sign up.
- h. The Board discussed Quarterly Sidewalk Sales. The dates are as follows: October 26th 2024: 10am-4pm, November 2nd, 2024 (Hunter's Feed): 9am-1pm, December 5th, 2024 (Sip-n-shop), March 22nd, 2025: 10am-4pm, June 2025: TBD, August 2nd, 2025 8am-12pm. Times and Dates will be emailed out.
- i. The Board discussed PlacerAI. Ruby stated that it was not in our budget at this time, so she would not be doing the presentation.
- j. The Board discussed having a scarecrow decorating contest for businesses around town to purchase a streetlight to decorate for contest money. Ruby presented pictures of other towns who have done the contest. Will discuss more next meeting. Tiffany came up with an idea to make CP Beautiful by picking a few houses each year that we have volunteers come out and clean up the yards of people needing help in Cross Plains. Discussed having Project Pride and/or the City get involved. Will also talk to the Helping Hearts and Hands for a collaboration. Will be discussed further at next month's meeting. Shiela will be putting the Chamber's office building up for sale soon. Discussed the price she wants for the building. Ruby will speak to the EDC and the bank about the possibility of purchasing it for the Chamber of Commerce. Will need to discuss funding to buy the building at the next meeting.

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Jake Estes. Tiffany Holland thereupon called the meeting adjourned at 7:23PM

Date of Next Meeting The next regular meeting will be held on October 14th, 2024 at 6:00pm at the Chamber Office.

Minutes submitted by Kristin Boggs

Minutes approved by: Tiffany Holland, President



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