

# Friends of the Big Empty

## Minutes

### Board meeting

**DATE** February 15, 2024

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**TIME** 6:00 PM

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**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY** Alex Vukasin

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#### IN ATTENDANCE

Exa Lee Smith, Cindie Kesler, Alex Vukasin, Marcella Barden, Jessica McDermott, Mariah McDermott, Becky Offutt.

#### OPEN MEETING

Time: 6:03 PM Quorum: Yes

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Review minutes of January 23, 2024, meeting. Motion to approve with no changes: Jessica; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Cindie; Approved unanimously.

#### REPORTS

- Jessica: 6 total mascot entries received so far, none have met requirements, replied to each with contest rules/parental consent. We'll run a final ad campaign on facebook before we consider a rules change to allow anyone to enter. Note: 2 board meetings remain before the contest closes.
- New Sponsors added to FOTBE website: Buckaroo: Becky Offutt, Dan Offutt, Kacy Sanders, Vaquero: Wichita Brazos Museum

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. **Move from TABLED 9/26:** Create a Membership Committee to add new members, provide instructions to subscribe to either Friends of The Big Empty or Explore The Big Empty notifications, where to find calendar events on ETBE or minutes on FOTBE websites. Unsubscribe Option always provided on notifications generated by either website. Cindie will maintain membership forms to manage expiration/renewal dates.
2. Cindie wishes to obtain an email account for [treasurer@friendsofthebigempty.org](mailto:treasurer@friendsofthebigempty.org) and pay for as a donation, \$35.88 first year, \$95.88 renewal. Marcella would pay GoDaddy, Cindie would reimburse Marcella and Cindie would be issued a donation receipt for tax purposes. (Correction: Marcella voided Cindie's personal check #1173 for \$35.88. It turns out that the treasurer email account we signed up for is on the Free Trial Plan until 9/14/24 and will be billed annually at that time.) There is a database of grant funds to sign up for but requires a "treasurer" email address to sign up with.

3. Marcella has an In-kind donation list of \$117.07 in expenses previously discussed for business cards, facebook ads and GoDaddy. Cindie provided a copy of the form to complete.
4. The standard word count for a Notable Resident is approximately 500.
5. Marcella has not received a response to the January 25 email to the Haskell Chamber of Commerce requesting a copy of and permission to use their writeup on Wyman Meinzer as a notable resident.
6. Be on the lookout for volunteers – both photographers and members.
7. Cindie will assist Don Thompson with an article and include a possible QR Code for a Membership Drive.
8. The Next Door application (nextdoor.com) is a social platform that connects neighbors based on their location, allowing them to share pertinent information about the neighborhood. At this time there are very few users in the areas we cover but we might find it useful to reach people when they do join.

### **BUILDING BUSINESS**

1. Jenna mentioned we can add signage like Jim's on the window in front of the building. Cindie has plenty of sign vinyl and previously owned a Sign Shop in the Panhandle and still does a few signs and has an idea for a video sign that we could use in the window instead of vinyl. It would be more dynamic with changing content, portable for shows etc, and easy to move if we decided to change office location. Cindie will look for a grant to cover this.

### **NEWSLETTER CONTENT SUGGESTIONS**

1. Notable Resident: Karen Hayley (Rochester)
2. New Sponsors: Buckaroo - Becky Offutt, Dan Offutt, Kacy Sanders; Vaquero – Wichita Brazos Museum
3. Upcoming Event Spotlight – Mobster Mayhem
4. Photo of the month – pick one and also post on facebook
5. Other – Recipe from Becky

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **TABLED 9/5:**

Fundraising - Ideas from the group include a recipe book, including photo winners in a calendar, postcards, or puzzles of website photos.

### **CLOSE MEETING**

Motion to close meeting: Becky; Time: 7:11 PM; 2nd: Exa Lee; Approved: unanimous

### **NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

111 N. Munday Ave.