COTTER-GASSVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Minutes – February 2015 General Meeting

General membership meeting was called to order at 8:0\_ a.m. by Chamber President Marcia Taylor. Meeting was held at the North Arkansas Youth Center.

Speaker and Sponsor North Arkansas Youth Centers Gary Flippin introduced Richard Gipson. Mr. Gibson addressed the members on the importance on the services that the youth center provides for the community and how the work matters to society and makes a difference in the young people lives of this community. “Someone has to raise the kids” So the work you are doing here matters.

The Banquet – we did lose money net loss of $464.00. We had planned on 80 people which we had 85 last year but we only had 55 or so people attend but we also were competing with the benefit at the school which Marcia thinks we lost a number of people there. It was a huge success aside from the money loss and she had a great time. Thanks to Paula Flippin for getting making all the arrangements and doing such a great job.

Gary Flippin - Shawnee Supreme Tournament – Is Saturday March 28th Shawnee invitational at Cotter Big Spring Park. Not sure how many applications are in yet. This should be a good year to catch some big fish. There are usually about 80 entries. This year the tournament is three weeks later so we might catch some better weather.

Jane Darr – Cotter Trout Festival – By a raise of hands how many people came to the last 3 years of the festival. All but one hand went up. How many plan to be there this year? It is May the 2nd please pray for good weather. Or first committee meeting this Tuesday at Warrior Station not that they haven’t already done a lot of work so far. The goal is not only to make money but to show the world what life is like in Big Spring Park on the White River in downtown Cotter.

Diana Roller – Gassville in the Park is June 6th the first Saturday in June a month after the Trout Fest. We have entertainment in place and they have sent out applications and are placing ads. It is a one day event in the park this is the 13th year for this event.

Website Update - Webpage Banners on the webpage for members and you can run your advertising on it. It will be $25 dollars a month the ad will run for a whole month. There are 10 spots available and it first come first serve. We don’t have all details worked out yet but it is live for you to look at. Payment is needed in advance and it will change every month one ad per business at a time if you own more than one business then you can have more than one ad but each ad will be $25 keep an eye open for it. At this time we have 5 businesses signed up.

Membership Committee – Gary Flippin – Diana and Gary met and split up the list and went and visited with them. What they are finding is that it’s a bad time of year. They are planning on getting back out March 30th and they will make them aware of benefits of membership. Membership dues are due so please pay them if you haven’t yet. Gary mentioned giving everyone til the 31st of March since we are a tourist based economy. Marcia asked that anyone there had not paid please pay them.

Ribbon Cuttings – We have several businesses lined up to do those but we will wait until April to do those to let the weather clear up so we are not dragging people around in the cold wet weather.

Technically, this is not Chamber business. it’s an individual decision to make some of you are aware that a business wanted to be set up on highway 62 The business is a transitional housing business and this may not be the best use of space. I would like to encourage you to attend City Council Meetings and to make your feelings known if you are concerned about this item. Marcia has asked Roland Morris Councilmen to speak about this Roland Morris –at the last council meeting Brian House addressed the Council it is right across from the fly shop. I didn’t know anything about it. I heard a rumor but didn’t know he would be addressing the council. Needless to say some of us were very upset. Some of the people at the Council Meeting were concerned. I made several phone calls, emails and texts Friday and to make a long story short Mr. House’s license has been pulled from the State to do business. I have been assured that he will probably not get another license. The reason I say that is in Cotter we have 3 fourths of a mile on the highway that is our prime commercial district. That’s got probably 500 more times traffic then we get in Cotter and that is where we want business, we want business to collect sales tax we want revenue, we need revenue Cotter does. We don’t have money, Gassville’s got it. Now this guy is looking at putting in some sort of veteran housing and we are not against it but we as a City have to protect our prime commercial areas. We are even looking at doing some zoning changes and such and all I can say to that is those of you with families to get involved and let the Council and Mayor know and voice your opinion. Unless he gets your opinion then he doesn’t know. Jane Darr asked “You indicated that Mr. House’s license was no more than who would be putting in this veteran housing business.” Roland – his licensed was pulled to do transitional housing. Jane – so his opportunity to build a structure for different target to live there is still allowable so he has changed who he would like to serve to veterans is that right? Roland – yes, it’s an existing structure that is there he is looking a different stuff to put there.

Mayor Jeff Braim of Gassville is here – At this time he had nothing to add to the meeting.

Marcia turned the meeting over to North Arkansas Youth Centers Gary Flippin. Gary introduced Mark Kapshandy. Mark – Thanks to all for coming out. I will present a power point on the history and transformation of the Youth Center building. I would like to introduce David Huddleston he is the Director here, we have a board of several folks they elected me this past year and it’s kind of passion for me as my son plays here. The other members are Tracy Adams secretary, Jenny Burns treasurer, Alison \_\_\_\_\_\_? Gary is on the board, Nathan Buck who provided the breakfast this morning, Chris Francis, Heather Russell and Steven Gandy. We are always looking for new members. Some of the activities we have here Men’s Basketball league, Volleyball and Basketball clinics boys, and girls. In the future we are looking at bringing new things. We are excited about what is going on here. The youth center operates for the most part we meet our bills for the most part we are in the process of fundraising for heating and air conditioning unit. If anyone would like to donate we would appreciate it David Huddleston – went over operating numbers to give some idea of what it take to have the youth center up and running. We are looking for new ways to get people more involved people don’t realize the Youth Center is here. We have a facebook page and certain events we do advertise. If anyone has any questions please feel free to contact him.

SADD Chapter – Officer Elliot visited with the Chamber and will do a fundraising on April 10th for the Last Dance and they are collecting funds to get this event done T-shirts are available with donors being placed on the shirt Marcia will be sending an email to members regarding this. Jane Darr - is the board making a recommendation to the membership that a donation from the Chamber be given. The board spoke about and are hands are somewhat tied donating chamber funds what we are doing is making everyone aware because it is an advertising opportunity at this point the Board decided no. Pastor Ruesch mentioned the Easter Sunrise service at the Cotter Fire Station. Info will be given to Marcia to be able to place on the webpage.