COTTER-GASSVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Minutes - July 15, 2014 General Meeting

Meeting was called to order by chamber president Marcia Taylor at 8:04am.

Thank you to VFW for opening their doors to the Chamber and for breakfast.

July’s Sponsor River Bend Park owners Danny and Donna Montgomery addressed the membership with news of their retirement community open and ready to sell homes to those 55 and older. There are homes ready to buy but owners can bring their own homes if they meet city code.

July’s Speaker Bo Gregory – Mountain Home Chamber of Commerce addressed the membership with news of how the Mountain Home Chamber is helping bring new businesses to them. They looked for opportunity’s there were in front of them. They helped bring Hobby Lobby in by being their base. Were able to get ASU to host a job fair, were able to provide breakfast and lunch for the event from the general membership. Chamber working with the Food Bank and The Ready to Work Program on getting basic skill and working with three different companies by hiring 3 of the graduates from this Ready to Work Program. This program is helping business look at coming to the area because they know that these graduates will have the basic skills needed. Support from the Chamber to bring new businesses to the area is essential. The Chamber is working to get a slice of the 15 million the State will spending on new programs to bring new businesses to Arkansas, some of the programs that are being looked at are those that would support the auto, HVAC, welding and robotics/electronics industry. Would like to build a center of excellence for plastics. Members see their dues come into play by offering services from that new business. Getting information for the UALR economic development site <http://www.iea.ualr.edu/> is a great way to see what business might be a good fit for your area. If our Chamber will let the Mountain Home Chamber know in what kind of businesses they are interested in looking at the Mountain Home Chamber would be happy to get us some info. Bo suggested as Cotter/Gassville as a great Corporate Retreat destination. For ideas google Corporate Retreats.

Cotter Trout Fest Recap – Did about $1800.00 more than last year. Gassville in the Park did about $3000.00 this year and we would like to look at both events and see how we can both improve by what works for each and what might help the other event succeed.

Spring House Update – The Chamber has had a loss of $1280.00 to date on the Spring House lease. Next month we will vote on the Spring House.

White River Canoe Race – In Cotter July 24th volunteers are needed. Meet at the launch at Big Spring Park at 9am on the 24th.

Update to incorporate Gassville – Will be meeting with Brent Critchfield and Nathan Buck to discuss. Look at updating old brochures, that we have 10 thousand of in stock, with stickers with new information on them. At this time it was decided to proceed with using the brochures we have and updating them with stickers.

Ribbon Cuttings – Upcoming cuttings Ozark Mountain Trading, Fleur De Lis Salon & Spa on August 29th. Possible cuttings White Sands Café, White River Auto, Yes Yoga, Vance Vision etc.

August Sponsor – Integrity First

August Speaker – Gwen Khayat with the Gassville Branch of the Baxter County Library, Natalie Slusser with Gamma House and Jeff Quick of the North Central Arkansas Food Bank.

Jan Peitz mentioned the Pink for Peitz Rodeo on August 8th and 9th.

Jeff Quick mentioned needing 600 volunteers at the Bridge Bash.

Corn Sale – Cotter Gassville Rural Fire Dept. will have corn for sale.

Bo with Mountain Home Chamber asked for volunteers for the Boat Races on Pigeon Creek event.