

Avilla Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2018

In attendance: 6 Members

President Kevin Kelly called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

Russ Shartzter made a motion to approve the minutes of the July meeting. Bill Ley seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Treasurer's report was given, the balance is \$1334.02.

Old Business

The Noble County Fair Board position representative position remains open. If you know anyone interested, please contact us for more information at 260.242.4898 or email at avillachamber@gmail.com.

Relocating the Welcome To Avilla signs: The signs have been relocated and we have received an invoice from Hoosier Signs for the amount of \$1337.76. It was decided to wait until after the holidays to look into "Thank you for visiting" signs for the backside of the Welcome To Avilla signs. We will do a fundraiser to help with the cost of the new signs.

New Business

Ideas for growing the membership and increasing participation: Topics of discussion were: meeting times, meet & greet, have more events, be involved with other organization events (Freedom Festival, Restore Avilla, etc).

Sign fence: The American Legion has added four signs recently and the Knights of Columbus will be adding one soon. The sign fence is open to all non-profit organizations to add their logo. We will be contacting some of the local organizations to see if they would like to add their logo. Having a business fence so that local businesses can put their logo up was also discussed and will be reviewed at future meetings.

Avilla Christmas Charities: The St James has confirmed that they will be hosting the Annual Christmas Benefit Turkey Dinner. The food suppliers/donors have been contacted and plans are underway for the fundraiser dinner on November 4th. We are planning for 250 people this year, last year was 200. We have a firepit and two bicycles for sale to raise funds for ACC. Collection boxes are already out for purchase in-store and donate at Parkers Outlet, with Dollar General and Handy Dandy coming soon. And a open donation box at NCPL-Avilla. St. Mary's

School and Avilla Elementary School will be doing collections for ACC. A coin collection can will be placed at Avilla Liquors soon. Monetary donations can be mailed to the Chamber at PO Box 614. If you would like to volunteer your time to help collect and/or sort donated items please contact the Chamber at 260.242.4898.

Tree Decorating Contest: We are doing the tree decorating contest again this year and hope to see many businesses and organizations participate. The trees will be placed in downtown storefronts or in business windows as long as the tree can be seen from the parking lot. Tree set-up will be Thur/Fri/Sat December 6, 7, and 8. Voting will start December 15 and end at noon on December 22nd with the winner being announced that evening. The trees will be taken down December 26th. The prize will be \$100. Participants are to enter between November 1 and 30 and it is open to all businesses in the 46710 zip code. Trees will be provided by the Chamber and entrance fee is \$35 for Chamber Members and \$40 for non-members.

House Decorating Contest: We will be doing the house decorating contest again this year and hope to see more participation. Rock Solid Realty is sponsoring the contest and will donate the \$250 prize. Entry fee is \$15 and is open to all residents in the 46710 zip code. Enter between November 1 and 30 and decorating should be complete December 8. Voting will start December 15 and end at noon on December 22nd with the winner being announced that evening. A numbered sign will be placed in each entrants yard for voting identification.

Police Station Sign: The existing sign in front of the Avilla Police Station is over 20 years old and needs replaced. Chief Glen Wills provided a quote for the new sign and asked if the Chamber would be willing to donate any money to help cover the cost of the sign. After some discussion, Bill made a motion to donate \$200 and Victoria Ferguson seconding. Motion passed 6-0.

With no further business, Bill made a motion to adjourn. Sheryl Prentice seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Meeting ended at 1:08 p.m.

Our next meeting is on Friday, November 9 from noon to 1 p.m. at the Avilla Library.