

Avilla Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes September 11, 2020

In attendance: 2 Members 1 Visitor onsite, 3 Members online

President Kevin Kelly called the meeting to order at 12:05 a.m.

Victoria Ferguson made a motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting. Kevin seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Treasurer's report was not given.

Old Business

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

Sign Fence: No updates.

Benches: The cast iron ends have been taken to be sandblasted and painted by Dave's Sandblasting & Painting and we are looking into who to have make the new wood slats. If you know someone who would be interested in helping with the wood slats, please contact us at avillachamber@gmail.com.

New Business

Welcome new member Community Learning Center!

Noble County Chambers Group Membership: The five Chambers of Noble County (Avilla, Albion, Ligonier, Rome City, and Kendallville) have worked out the details of a group rate which enables membership in all five Chambers at once at a twenty percent discount. The group membership can be purchased through any of the five Chambers and renewal is handled by the Chamber through which it was purchased. The Avilla Chamber approved the group rate during the November 2019 meeting. Contact the Chamber if you are interested in taking advantage of the All Noble Chambers Group Membership.

Life's Better Here ad: The Chamber partnered with the Town of Avilla to purchase an ad spot on channel 21 to promote the Town of Avilla along with the opportunities and lifestyle here. The ads will run through the end of September. We are doing a follow-up campaign called "Fall In Love With Avilla". This is a free way to bring attention to the lifestyle, people, organizations, and businesses in Avilla. Anyone from Avilla can participate, if posting on social media, they link

together using hashtagFallInAvilla. There is a Facebook page that's been created called "Avilla Our Home Is Yours to help promote the effort. We are hoping to be able to do something along these lines each season. The Fall season would be until Thanksgiving.

Library Events: The Chamber has partnered with the Library for events in the past and inquired if there are any upcoming events they would like to partner on? Victoria Ferguson will check and see.

Scavenger Hunt: We would like to do a scavenger hunt to get people out and involved to get interest in Avilla and what it has to offer. After some discussion it was decided to pursue doing a scavenger hunt. We will be working out the details. The event would occur over about a two week period in late October. If you would like to help or be a sponsor, contact the Chamber.

Library Donation: The Chamber supports the Freedom Festival each year and it was proposed that we support the Library in similar fashion. We use their meeting room for our meetings all year long at no cost. Kevin made a motion to donate \$100 to the Library (Avilla Branch), Carmen Seconded, Motion passed 4-0.

Avilla Christmas Charities: We have had a meeting with the three Churches in town to get things in motion. The Turkey Dinner will be Sunday November first from 11:00 until out, at the St. James and will be carry-out only this year. The meal with pie will be the same but no drinks will be offered. We have begun contacting the businesses who previously put out donation boxes and change donation cans. We have also begun contacting those who adopted families in the past. If you would like to help out with Avilla Christmas Charities contact the Chamber.

Chamber Officers: Our Annual Meeting is held in June but due to the virus we have not had a meeting since February. We have made it known that all officer positions are open and asked that interested parties contact the Chamber. We received no responses. Therefore, Russ Shartzter will continue as Treasurer, Kevin Kelly will continue as President, Victoria Ferguson is not available to continue as Vice president and we thank her for her two years of service, and Dawn Kelly will be the interim Secretary.

With no further business, Victoria made a motion to adjourn. Carmen seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

Meeting ended at 12:42 p.m.

Our next meeting is on Friday, October 9 at noon at the Avilla Library. We plan to continue to have an online meeting in conjunction with our onsite meeting. Hope to see you join our next meeting!