

## Milford Commercial Club Minutes

August 10, 2017/ Catered by Fare You Well/MCC

Board Members Present:

Chris Hinshaw, Rachel Sirola, Jack Walsh

Members Present: Dawn Powell, Beth Sorenson, Bobbi Schmeling, Char Kremmin, LeAnn Reinsbach, Marisa Sidles

Meeting was called by Chris at 12:15

**Secretary 1<sup>st</sup>** – Beth S, 2nd by Bobbi S. Passed **Treasurer's Report:** – Tabled until Sept meeting to get Pioneer Days wrapped up

**Chamber report:** The chamber couldn't be here but they sent the following:

Next BA5: September 12<sup>th</sup> at Boji Bay with their new restaurant That One Place

Boji Bike Rally: August 18-20 (Come out for the vendor fair, food, drinks, bike show, demo rides, meet & greet, games, music, and more!)

Oktoberfest Bike Ride: September 30<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM (20+ mile bike ride beginning at Preservation Plaza, enjoy West O beer afterwards along with deals at area bars and restaurants)

Mutt Strut: October 7<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM (1-mile walk beginning at Pearson Lakes Art Center with fun goodie bags, contests, and prizes)

Chamber Games: October 20<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 4 PM (Fun networking opportunity. Teams of 4 will compete in different relays, challenges, and trivia to receive points. The team with the most points will get to choose the local non-profit that all proceeds will be donated to.)

Winter games logo contest open through September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Blain Andera hired as new CEO. He will oversee both the Spirit Lake and Iowa Great Lakes Area Chambers.

All additional information and registration is available online at [www.okobojichamber.com](http://www.okobojichamber.com).

**Other Reports:** None

1. 2017 Members – There is currently 103 members. No new members to report because we have been busy with Pioneer Days
2. Pioneer Days/Quasquicentennial Celebration in July: We had a very good week for the most part. There were some glitches here and there and forgotten things however we feel we did well considering the amount of events we were doing exceeded the amount a volunteers.

Some suggestions for future Pioneer Days include: We need to sell Pop/Water on Saturday. We need to have a First Aid Kit available, there was a need for one this year. It was also suggested that maybe we see if the Lakes Regional Hospital would like to have an ambulance available and at our park on Friday evening/Saturday in case there is a need but also to give them some exposure in the community.

Peddle Tractor Pull was one of the events where we had an issue, we forgot to have the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place prizes available for the Peddle Tractor pull people to hand out. We had them in the garage but forgot to bring them to the park.

Parade- they had 112 entries so that went well. We had a lot more Shriner units than we have had in the past which was good but it also meant that we paid out more money than expected because they all require a donation of \$300-500.

This year we were lucky to get 2 trailers that we used for the week thanks to Integrity Real Estate and Farmers Savings Bank for allowing us to use the trailers. 1 was used for all the souvenirs so it was moved daily to the spot we were selling souvenirs. The other housed the Carnival games/Bags Tournament boards/bags. This was great because it kept the shelter house open so we could use it for other purposes.

The Pioneer Prairie Vendor event went well. They had over 60 vendors and there was a great variety of vendors. Next year it will be expanded to not only include Buchannan Park but also an inside location which is St Joseph Catholic Church.

We had record number of people for both the Noon Burger feed and the BBQ Contest. We ran out of Ribs and Pork for the BBQ feed. There was one mix up- Dawn forgot about the Public Tasting so when it was time to do that we didn't have the beans/cup we normally have so they used rocks, which looking back maybe it would have been best to just not present that award.

Bags tournament was a success! Started out only allowing 16 teams and ended up changing it to 20 teams. Next year it would be best to just use a 32 team bracket and expand it because we had a number of people who showed up and would have liked to get in the tournament that day. Another thought is that it might be a good idea to have a Youth /Teen Tournament on Saturday because there isn't anything for kids to do Saturday except jump on Inflatables, play in the park and watch the water fights. We did lose money on this event this year however we do have 10 sets of Bags/Boards to use in the future for events.

Inflatables: We ended up losing money on the Inflatables this year because we had expected to get volunteers from the community to help and we did get maybe 5 people to sign up for a 2 hour shift but we needed 7 people for each 2 hour shift and there were approximately 10 2 hour shifts we needed covered. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year we have used this company and they didn't seem to do a very good job monitoring the Inflatables and we felt they may have over charged so we need to

decide if we will use them next year or if we even have Inflatables. Another thought was to just have inflatables for Saturday since there is already so much going on Friday evening for kids.

Tractor Pull and Mini Rods (New this year) were a success. They had a lot of people who came to attend this event. Side note: They were using the Port a Pottys all day that were meant for the Dance Saturday night, which isn't a big deal but if we continue to have the Mini Rods which draw a bigger crowd we might want to make sure to have a couple port a Pottys.

Style Show was very well attended and there were a lot of compliments about this event.

Food eating contests were not as well attended from a contestant stand point but that might be due to the time of the day we had these contests. It did however draw a big crowd that gathered around to watch.

Dunk Tank was a success especially since we had a sponsor which helped to pay for the rental of the tank.

Concert was great, heard lots of great things about it. We wished there would have been more who attended but those that did seemed to have a great time and Slamabama was a hit. This was one of those events we felt we had to have because of the 125<sup>th</sup> town celebration however next year there is no plan to have a Beer Garden/Dance run by MCC. If a member bar would like to plan this event we would welcome it.

Bingo was a success however there were complaints about moving it to Sunday. We had so many wonderful donations from businesses for this event. We had a great crowd for the event, we may leave it on Sunday's

All School Reunion was a huge success they had so many people we had to do 2 seatings, which did cause a little bit of issue but for the most part everyone understood. We heard nothing but good things about it and the All School reunion Chronicle turned out nice, it was given out to every graduate who attended the dinner and we still have some for sale for \$10.

Souvenirs: We had a nice variety of Souvenirs, we still have several items for sale, they can be purchased at the Milford City office or contact Dawn or Chris if you can't get to the Milford City office we can get the items to you. All the Souvenirs are paid for so anything we sell now thru the end of the year is just helping our fundraiser which is to raise money for the Florence Park Shelter house. We need to put a Kitchen area which includes hot water, we want to put a couple rest rooms and making it a year-round facility. If we have extra funds we would also like to upgrade Buchanan's Shelter house a little also. WE NEED TO FORM A COMMITTEE FOR THIS PROJECT WE WOULD LIKE 3-5 PEOPLE ON THIS COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE IT. We will also be applying for grants to help with the project. If you want to be part of this please let Dawn or Chris know.

3. Trademark Pioneer Days- This year we had a little bit of an issue where someone was promoting a for profit event the weekend of Pioneer Days and they called the event Pioneer Days ....! The concern was brought up that if people are calling their events Pioneer Days \_\_\_\_, then does it put some liability on the MCC because people think that they are part of our events? One of our members did reach out to their lawyer and found out that we could register it as a Trademark nationally or just in the state. The cost for registering it in State would be around \$1,000. The question came up wondering if the Chamber has trademarks on any of their events, Dawn will reach out and check. The other thought was that if this is the 1<sup>st</sup> time it has happened in 40+ years maybe it isn't as big of a deal and we shouldn't spend the money. Someone also wondered if we couldn't do it without the help of a lawyer which would save us money. We will talk about it more in Sept.
4. Caring Committee- We do not have anyone to help with the Caring Committee, if someone is interested we would like help. We discussed this briefly and have decided to table it for a while but if anyone knows of anything we should know about such as Retirements, Sickness/Hospitalization, Death, New Business or anything else with our members, please let us know so we can send a card out.
5. Halloween: We discussed this event. We will do it again and it will be on the 31<sup>st</sup> from 3:30 to 5PM. Chris and Char will call around to see what businesses want to participate. We will need help delivering the Pumpkin pictures for the business to put in their window. Dawn will make a list of businesses participating again along with promoting the Photo contest and the Haunted Hallway. This year we will be sure that Bob Clark gets the list. We need to add on the flyer : Be respectful and courteous be sure to Thank the businesses
6. Holiday Fantasy: December 2nd or 9th to be determined, discussed changing it to the 9<sup>th</sup> because the 2<sup>nd</sup> always seems to be busy with several school activities that day including Wrestling, Debate and sometimes a 3<sup>rd</sup> event. LeAnn will check to make sure that the Community Building is available both weekends. We will make the decision soon. We do need the following help for that event:
  - Committee:** We need to form a committee to oversee this event and plan what the Grand Prize items will be for the raffle.
  - Prizes:** We need a few people willing to help Beth call businesses to see if they will donate items we can use for the raffle.
  - Soup/Chili:** Bobbi has agreed to contact businesses about Soup/Chili, if you would like to help her or if you would like to make sure you are added to the list of businesses who will provide a roaster pan of Soup/Chili for

our event, please feel free to reach out to Bobbi directly at Creative Photography.

**Setup:** If you are willing to help setup we would invite you to help the Friday night prior to the event.

**Raffle Sales:** We need someone willing to take Raffle tickets around to businesses and pick up the tickets/money. This will take place the month or so before the event.

7. Good of the Order:

Need to get the Florence Park Project Committee put together ASAP. Chris and Rachel will be on the committee but we need 3 others.

Adjourn Beth S 1st LeAnn R 2<sup>nd</sup>, Motion Passed

Next meeting is Sept 14th.