

# Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes

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Tuesday, June 2nd, 2015

Foristell Chamber of Commerce met at the T/A restaurant in Foristell, MO on June 2nd, 2015. Chris Gaines led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Aaron Baker led the opening prayer. Chris Gaines called the meeting to order.

**Minutes:** Meeting minutes from May were approved as stated.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

1) Account balance as of June 2nd, 2015 was \$3,557.92. The treasurer's report was approved as stated.

2) The chamber currently has \$521 the Ray Alexander Scholarship Fund. Nancy Hance and Peg Alexander attended the Scholarship presentation ceremony to recognize Kama Mainieri as the chamber's 2015 Ray Alexander Scholarship recipient. Once the chamber receives enrollment information for Kama, the chamber will disburse the \$800 scholarship.

## **Foristell City Report:**

1) City Administrator, Sandy Stokes reports that there is a lot of interest in land in Foristell. Land transactions are increasing, but we are not seeing property construction and improvements. Many property owners are waiting to see the growth happen before they invest more money to install utilities on their properties, or to build homes.

2) The court reform proposal could hurt the city's revenue. No more than 35% of the Foristell general budget can be funded by court revenues. Next year, that number will go down to 30% with the following year decreasing down to 20%. This may effectively eliminate the Foristell police department, but Sandy is fighting to avoid this.

## **Wentzville School District:**

1) Pam Frazier (Wentzville School District CFO) reports that the district is looking to purchase land to build more schools to accommodate the growing student population.

2) Wentzville had 2 students achieve National Merit Scholar status. One student was from Timberland, and one from Holt High School. The National Merit Scholars represent the top 1% of students in the country for their academic achievement.

3) WSD received a \$4 million dollar grant to purchase the United Services Building in O'Fallon. The purchase will help meet the current needs of the Early Childhood Special Education program currently serving 460 students and allow it room to grow.

4) 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who achieved near-perfect attendance in their K-5 careers were rewarded for their hard work, riding to school in the WFPD fire truck.

## **Wright City School District:**

Dr. Chris Gaines, Wright City School District Superintendent

1) Preschool building construction is still underway, but nearing completion. The building should be ready for school to begin in August.

2) Chris Gaines will be moving to work with the Mehlville School District as Superintendent. David Buck will be replacing him. This will be a time of transition for the WCSD.

4) Wright City baseball team ended the season with a 20-6 record and took 2<sup>nd</sup> in the district.

5) Summer school has started and today (6/2/15) is the second day in session.

#### **Chamber Discussion:**

1) Chris Gaines is stepping down as President of the Foristell chamber due to his move to Mehlville, effective this month. Chris' service to the Foristell and Wright City communities and the Foristell Chamber will be missed, but we know he will do a great job in his new role. That said, we need to determine who will step into the vacant President position.

2) Several suggested that Foristell business owners should step into that role since they have the most at stake with their businesses in the community. The concerns were for the business owners to allocate enough time to the chamber to serve effectively in that capacity.

3) One suggestion was made that each month a different chamber member could take turns leading the meetings and scheduling speakers. This would help relieve some of the time required of the chamber president. Bylaws do require an acting President of the chamber, but rotating those leading the meeting may be a good option.

4) Sandy Stokes volunteered to serve as President for this transitional period and will coordinate the meeting for August, as there will be no meeting in July.

#### **Announcements:**

1) Mark Van Dillen won the 50/50 drawing

2) Don't forget the next meeting will be in August. Speaker is TBD.

3) Warrenton Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Transportation Summit to discuss: "Are Toll Roads the Answer?" Meeting will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Truesdale on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 11:45am – 1pm. Lunch is \$9 per person.

#### **Meeting attendees this month:**

Mark Van Dillen, AB Signs; Ken Orf, Foristell Storage; Peg Alexander, Shiloh UMC; Jack Sanford, Wright City Schools; Aaron Baker, Foristell church of Christ; Chris Gaines, Wright City Schools; Nancy Hance, First State Community Bank; Phil Reid, Westbound Real Estate; Jackie Stewart, Warren County Ambulance District; Melissa Porlier, Porlier Outdoor Advertising; Michelle Smith, ReMax; Rich Paton, Foristell Christian Church; Sandy Stokes, City of Foristell; Kurt Daniels, Cochran Engineering; Pam Frasier, Wentzville School District; Amanda Woods, Wright City Schools (Guest of Chris Gaines).

Submitted by Aaron Baker 6/2/2015