

Minutes for MainStreet Board of Directors

December 19, 2024

8:00 a.m. Mabrey Meeting Room

Attendees:

Kamie Crawford
Katie McElhaney
Bryan Dudley

Andy Goodnight
Christy Brasier
Randi Jackson

Rusty Milroy
Chris Azbell

Mary Lewellen
Jill Rhodes

Sarah Rhodes - new Board member, representing Okmulgee Chamber of Commerce
Adrian Tuggle - new Board member, to be voted on

Excused:

Christie Baldrige
Mark Tuggle
Aaliyah Alexander
Margaret Hess

Minutes:

Motion was made by Rusty Milroy to approve minutes from November. Second by Brian Dudley. Motion carried

Financials:

Motion was made by Mary Lewellen to approve financials from November. Seconded by Chris Azbell. Motion carried.

New Business:

Pocket Park Vote: 3 Interested parties discussed:
\$3,500 from Okmulgee Rotary Club
\$3,500 from John Neal
\$15,000 from Mithral Adventures

Both Rotary and John Neal are interested in maintaining the property as a public park. Would retain the name of "Jim Newport Memorial Pocket Park" and leave signature bricks in place. Mary suggested selling to Rotary for \$3500 and giving back money in facade grant. Margaret suggested Rotary for a mutually agreeable sale price with first right of refusal to Okmulgee MainStreet.

John has expressed he is in favor of Rotary keeping it as a public space and making it available for events.

Speaking for Rotary, Jill Rhodes assured the board it would continue to be used as a public venue. She also indicated funding is possible through Rotary International.

After discussion, **Brian Dudley** moved that we enter into negotiation with intent to sell to Okmulgee Rotary Club. **Christy Brasier** seconded and motion carried.

Adrian Tuggle was nominated as a new Board member, Mary moved, Jill seconded and motion carried.

Chris Azbell was nominated as President-elect for 2025. Brian moved, Katie seconded and motion carried.

Slate of Officers were presented as:

Andy Goodnight - President

Rusty Milroy - Treasurer (appointed by President)

Mary Lewellen - Recording Secretary (appointed by President)

Margaret Hess - Immediate Past President (will fill in for Kamie Crawford who is leaving the board, Margaret has served as President in past years)

Kamie Crawford will not serve another term on the board due to job demands. She will be removed from all bank accounts affiliated with Okmulgee MainStreet.

Committee Reports:

Organization:

Melinda reported that the Annual Meeting for all members of Okmulgee MainStreet will be held on Thursday, January 9 from 6:00-8:00 at the Community Center. All Board members are urged to attend.

Board Training with leadership from the State Office in OKC will take place Thursday and Friday, January 16 and 17th in the Mabrey Meeting Room. Thursday's session will be from 4:00 - 8:00 and Friday will be all day. Board books will be revamped and updated for distribution. All Board members are urged to attend.

Promotions:

The Christmas Parade was another huge success headed by Kim Priegel. The Parade is organized by its own committee consisting of various local business people and Main Street volunteers.

Promotions will need a new chairperson. Responsibilities include but are not limited to: Dinner With the Stars, Harvest Spoon Chili Fest and Big Brain Trivia Night.

Economic Vitality (EV):

Chris reported "Tools for Your Business Workshop" will be held Thursday, February 27, planning for various groups to attend including municipalities, Tribe, etc.

Plans for the Will Sampson statue are continuing. The Muscogee Nation is very interested in partnering with the family and MainStreet. The artist being considered is Kenneth Johnson. Oklahoma Film and Music Office has been contacted for advertising and funding. Renderings are expected to be available in January with fundraising efforts to follow.

New board member, Ryan Logan, will be partnering on marketing. Several billboards are located around the Tulsa area that will be available for Okmulgee MainStreet to utilize.

Design:

This committee will need a new chairperson. MainStreet has entered into collaboration with Sarah Amador, owner of Midge & Millies, with her book about "Mug", a woodland sprite who travels around historic downtown Okmulgee via tiny "entrance doors". Visitors will be encouraged to locate these doors to learn the history of each location. MainStreet will soon create a page for social media to involve others,

Community Updates:

1. GCTC - Career Tech is hoping to collaborate with OSUIT for their annual conference in Okmulgee.
2. Muscogee Nation - The Nation has purchased the junkyard north of the Travel Plaza. Funding may soon be available for the Okmulgee Country Club property. Dr. Randall, President of the Muscogee College, is searching for a downtown property to not only provide a presence downtown but include an event space, offices, classroom space, etc. The Arlington Building north of the Council House was discussed. It is in terrible condition and needs to be demolished. With the preservation of the facade and use of existing Bricks, demolition could possibly be approved by the City of Okmulgee and Preservation Commission.
3. OSUIT - On break until January 6. New student move-in is January 3.

4. City - Police cars and firetrucks ave been outfitted with updated AED's (Auto electric defibrillators). Grants have been received for drug overdoses, ie: Narcon. Moneys from the Opiod settlement are available.
Restrictions have been adjusted for size of structures and lot sizes. This should help with in-fill concerning affordable single family housing. According to specifications, tiny houses of 500 square feet would now be approved.
5. Chamber of Commerce - Sarah Rhodes will assume the duties of Chamber Director January 1, 2025. The first event for the Chamber will be the Legislative Forum on January 3. Sarah will meet with City officials to confirm continued funding. A recent property sale will provide funds for a new roof and windows at the Chamber office. They are also hoping for new signage close to the MainStreet sign at 6th and Wood Drive drawing travelers downtown. Sarah has received 15 applications sent out to fill 10 Board seats. Sarah will hold a Board seat on Okmulgee Main Street and Melinda De Santo will be the MS representative on the Chamber board according to both sets of by-laws.
6. High School - US History teacher, Ms Davis, is establishing a Chess Club. Students will be on Winter Break after Christmas. Following break, The Snowball will be held In the HS Cafeteria.
7. YMCA - Open House on January 11, 2025. All Board members are urged to attend. The annual campaign will kick off with a goal of \$70,000 by April 1. The grant ran out for the Go Club after school program but will continue with program funding. It is DHS approved and includes summer camp and child care scholarships. Participation is open to all but Okmulgee students get 1st choice. It is held at The Okmulgee Primary School.

New Businesses:

There is a new antique store opening on Highway 75 north.

Old Business:

Individual Board pictures will be taken after the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.