

MainStreet Board Meeting

July 18, 2024

8:00 am College of the Muscogee Nation, Main Lecture Hall

Attendees:

Melinda DeSanto	Christy Brasier	Brian Dudley	Christie Baldrige
Jill Rhodes	Mark Tuggle	Katie McElhaney	Mary Lewellen
Rusty Milroy	Andy Goodnight	Chris Azbell	Margaret Hess

Minutes: June Motion by Christie Baldrige, 2nd by Andy Goodnight. Motion approved

Financials: June Motion by Margaret Hess, 2nd by Mark Tuggle. Motion approved.

New Business:

The Organization/Membership/Fundraising Committee is lacking a chairperson. A list of committees and members was distributed. The Promotions Committee is currently heading up planning for Big Brain with Melinda and Debbie's help. Margaret moved and Rusty seconded to table discussion for a committee chairperson until after Big Brain. Motion carried.

Quick Books with Gusto Payroll was presented with Melinda as facilitator as she is familiar with both programs. OMS is currently paying Davis Accounting \$450/month for monthly report, payroll and tax prep. Kelly Jackson has offered to complete paperwork and submit annual taxes at no charge. (Kelly is a former OMS Board member). Rusty suggested we continue to pay \$125/month to Davis Accounting for payroll. After further discussion, it was determined that Melinda will provide QuickBook reports monthly to the Board and Davis Accounting will no longer be utilized. Rusty made the motion and Chris seconded to turn the financials over to Melinda DeSanto, Executive Director of Okmulgee Mainstreet with Rusty and Kim Priegel (former OMS Board Member) supervising.

Office Copier. The current copier was purchased for \$1. We are paying a monthly service contract but parts are unavailable and it continues to malfunction. Melinda is researching copiers and service contracts through Ricoh and J.D. Young. It was suggested we not sign a long-term lease, better to purchase our own machine. Christie Baldrige to provide more information.

Committee Reports:

Organization/Membership/Fundraising - time and location to be determined by chair. See above report concerning Big Brain Trivia Night. The Board was reminded that this is a mandatory event and all Board members are expected to volunteer their time that evening. Assignments were made. Each Board member is to provide a bottle of wine and at least one silent (or vocal item) with a value of at least \$100. Bring to the MainStreet office as soon as possible.

Promotions - Kamie Crawford - Meets 1st Friday of each month at 9:00 - MainStreet office. This committee has assisted with Big Brain but also discussed was the upcoming Chili Festival in October. Melinda will double check about the street closing with the city. Clearview Baptist Church will host the Kid Zone. Billie Been has agreed to host the Cornhole Tournament and Christie Baldrige will take care of The Market Place. Rusty will be in charge of the Chili Tasting contest and has already arranged for trophies. John Neal will host Pumpkin Chunkin again this year. The Pie Auction will again have Senator Roger Thompson acting as auctioneer.

Economic Vitality - Margaret Hess - Meets 2nd Thursday of each month at 8:00 am - Mabrey Bank meeting room.

*** T-Mobile Hometown Grant**

Melinda has submitted paperwork for this grant several times in Prosser, Washington. It is very labor intensive and needs a specific project. More murals, alley projects and a Will Rogers statue on the Council House Lawn were discussed. This is not a matching grant. The next deadline is September 30 for \$50,000.

*** Viersen Family Foundation**

Deadline for grants is September 30. Their application process is simple and straightforward. Several Board members as well as Melinda met with Sarah Miller, granddaughter and Board member of VFF, former administrator Lisa Rhynes, and current administrator Audra Fogle. They are excited to continue working with Okmulgee Mainstreet. The following ideas were shared for future funding requests from the VFF:

1. New branding for city growth, not just MainStreet, with a professionally drawn up 5 year campaign. John Neal and Chris Azbell met with representatives from Ackerman McQueen, advertising firm in Oklahoma City. It would require a 3-5 year commitment to change the negativity surrounding Okmulgee.

2. Focus on day trips for tourists drawing traffic off Highway 75 between Tulsa and Dallas.

Design - Andy Goodnight - Meets 3rd Wednesday of each month at 11:00 - MS office
Andy reported Umbrella Alley is still a work in progress. With the movie in town, it was discussed asking Danny Hulse, location director, if MainStreet could use any of their lifts when not being utilized by the film crew. Should we look into renting a boom lift, pay a contractor to finish? With the movie shooting all over this area it has been difficult to work on the project.

Okmulgee Rising Updates

1. GCTC: School will be back in session soon,
2. Muscogee Nation - The Board met in the beautiful new STEM building. Hoping to collaborate more in the future.
3. OSUIT - Trimester Break recently ended and faculty and staff are back on site.
4. City of Okmulgee - Starbucks has opened. The Fireworks Extravaganza was again a huge success. Having trouble with sanitation trucks and mechanical issues, trying to stay abreast of trash collection.
5. Chamber of Commerce - no report. Kamie will send a board memo addressing our non-participation in The Pecan Festival this year.
6. Okmulgee Public Schools - Melinda recently met with Rhea Wilson and Amanda Thomas, new High School Principal. They are committed to high visibility within the community.
We need a Jr. class representative to serve on our Board.
Tonya Stretch will be our contact for any kind of school presence for MainStreet events.
MainStreet will collaborate on the Back to School bash.
Uniforms will not be required by students this year but there is a strong dress code.
MainStreet will encourage all business members to attend the football game on Nov. 1.
We will reach out to the new Academy of Okmulgee to offer our assistance as needed.

7. YMCA - readying for Fall sports. On July 20, an Open House will held. On August 17, the Y will host a drive through countywide school supply giveaway. Supplies will be prepackaged by grade level. This was financed by the Viersen Family Foundation.

8. New Business:

* The Presbyterian Church will be distributing backpacks and shoes on July 27 from 9:00-2:00 for school kids.

* The Black Rodeo will celebrate its 69th year on August 10. Former OMS Board member, Tonya Bowie, will host her 5th Street Celebration that morning. Parade that afternoon downtown. MainStreet car in the parade? Contact Lael LeBlanc.

*Starbucks

*KD Design

Old Business

*By-Law changes were approved as corrected.

* Reminder to Board members to deliver wine and auction items for Big Brain to the MainStreet office as soon as possible.

* Rusty Milroy, Andy Goodnight, Margaret Hess, and Mary Lewellen will attend the One Day Training session for Board members in Yukon, Ok on August 20.

Director Comments

Melinda shared information on Payroll/Taxes after researching QuickBooks and Gusto Payroll. This would save a significant amount of money annually.

She is also researching copiers.

Date of Next Meeting: August 15, 2024, 8:00 am Mabrey Meeting Room

Adjourned: 9:14