

## **Minutes for MainStreet Board of Directors**

January 16, 2025

4:00 pm Mabrey Meeting Room

### **Attendees:**

Andy Goodnight	Chris Azbell	Rusty Milroy	Mary Lewellen
Margaret Hess	Adrian Tuggle	Christy Brasier	Emily Oldham
Jill Rhodes	Katie McElhane	Ryan Logan	Bryan Dudley
Aaliyah Alexander	Randi Jackson	Sarah Rhodes	

### **Excused:**

Christie Baldrige

### **Minutes:**

Rusty moved and Chris seconded to approve the November minutes

### **Financials:**

Margaret moved and Jill seconded to approve the November financials

Rusty has spoken with Dirk Palmer, accountant, to file our income tax returns with Melinda continuing to complete monthly financials.

### **Director Comments:**

Melinda recently met with Audrey Fogle with the Viersen Family Foundation regarding grants. Grants will not be approved for beautification but we will instead direct our requests for operating funds and redesigning our website with a focus on our status as Movie Liaison for Okmulgee.

The Annual Membership Meeting will be rescheduled after being cancelled due to weather. "Tools for Your Business" will be held February 27, 2025 from 5:00 - 8:00 at the Community Center. Focus will be on how to start a business or build on an existing one. We received a \$2,500 grant from the Oklahoma Main Street Center to host this event.

OMS received \$23,000 in sponsorships for 2024, the goal for 2025 is \$30,000 of which \$15,500 has been received to date.

### **Old Business:**

Negotiations will begin between OMS and Okmulgee Rotary Club with Andrew Harlan representing Rotary, to purchase the Jim Newport Pocket Park for \$3,000. A Quit Claim deed will be filed to avoid fees. It was agreed previously to include OMS having first right of refusal. Margaret made the motion to move forward with selling the Pocket Part for \$3,000 through a Quit Claim deed with Barksdale Law Firm filing the necessary paperwork. Adrian seconded the motion which carried with one dissenting vote from Rusty.

### **New Business:**

Melinda provided a calendar of events for 2025 which includes all committee meeting dates. All Board members must belong to at least one committee.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Organization:**

The Organization Committee will meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 9:00 in the MainStreet office. This committee was responsible for the Board Training held January 16 and 17, 2025.

**Promotions:**

The Promotions Committee will meet the 1st Friday of the month at 9:00 in the MainStreet office pending approval of the new Committee Chairperson. This committee organizes and conducts events and fundraisers. This committee needs a chair.

**Economic Vitality (EV):**

EV will meet the 2nd Thursday of the month at 8:00 am in the Mabrey Meeting Room. This committee is currently working to create an Oklahoma Film & Music Package with the city of Okmulgee.

A more comprehensive plan is needed for moving forward with the growth and success of Okmulgee as well as strengthening our relationship with the Muscogee Nation, Discussion is continuing about the Will Sampson/Will Rogers statues. Fund raising possibilities include a \$50,000 T-Mobil grant, Viersen Family Foundation and Our Town Grants as well as partnering with the City of Okmulgee and the Muscogee Nation.

**Design:**

The Design Committee will meet the 3rd Wednesday at 11:00 at the Main Street office. Andy will step down as chairman, Jill Rhodes has accepted the post. Focus will be continuing collaboration with Sarah Amador and her book about "Mug" to be published in March of 2026. Main Street is to introduce and sell small entry doors throughout historic downtown Okmulgee highlighting the history of downtown. The book is categorized as semi-historical fiction.

**Community Updates:**

1. GCTC - classes have resumed after winter break.
2. Muscogee Nation - Under the Inflation Reduction Act, funds have been negotiated with the new administration. This stalls the Okmulgee Country Club development planning, especially the building itself. The former golf course land is still available to be utilized,
3. OSUIT - Students have returned after winter break. Credit hours were up 250-300 in November.
4. City - no report.
5. Chamber of Commerce - Sarah Rhodes has officially begun her role as Chamber Director as of January 1, 2025. Four other communities have been invited to join making it the Okmulgee County Chamber of Commerce. Her board is complete with the exception of 1 seat.
6. High School - Martin Luther King assemblies will be held Friday, January 17 at the 3 school sites. Pep Rally's continue for home games. OSUIT has agreed to allow the Prom to be held on their campus. The Okmulgee County Basketball Tournament will be held January 23-26, 2025 at the MN Dome.
7. YMCA - The Y will be opening its 15th branch today, January 16, in West Tulsa. It will serve as an indoor soccer facility. Paige MeElhaney of the Okmulgee YMCA was honored as National Education Director of the Year. The Okmulgee location currently has 60 employees with more to be added for summer activities

**New Business:**

The Well-Done Foundation will be moving to the downtown square in the MacBreyer (The Mac) Building. They have a federal contract to plug abandoned oil wells in Okmulgee county of which there are currently over 5,000. Curtis and Stacy Shuck are the owners. They will make the area their residence for several years and are eager to give back to the community. They will employ between 15-45 people.

Margaret reported she has been asked to represent the family of John McConnell with the sale of properties including, but not limited to the Commerce Building, the Orpheum Theater and what is known as "the skinny building" on Morton, west side of the Square. John's family recognizes the importance of these properties to the citizens of Okmulgee.

**Mary moved and Chris seconded to adjourn at 5:04.**

