

Mainstreet Board Meeting

August 15, 2024

8:00 am Mabrey Meeting Room

Attendees:

Kamie Crawford	Andy Goodnight	Rusty Milroy	Mary Lewellen
Christie Baldrige	Katie McElhaney	Christy Brasier	Chris Azbell
Jill Rhodes	Margaret Hess	Bryan Dudley	Randi Jackson

Minutes: July Motion by Mary Lewellen, 2nd by Christie Baldrige. Motion approved

Financials: July Motion by Christie Baldrige, 2nd by Andy Goodnight, Motion approved

New Business:

Credit Card Termination. Balance was paid off using revenue from Sarah's Oil. This card will be terminated and replaced with an Amazon credit card with MainStreet and Melinda on the account. Christie made the motion and Mary seconded the termination of this card. Motion carried.

Randi Jackson, Junior at Okmulgee High School, was introduced as our Jr. rep.

Community Center. After receiving an email complaint from City Council member, Steven Baldrige, concerning the outside of the Community Center looking so rough, Melinda researched the responsibility for lawn care and flowerbeds. It was discovered that Okmulgee Mainstreet is not responsible for keeping the beds cleared of debris and weeds per the original agreement with the city, although MS has maintained and planted in the past. Complaints have been made by renters of several areas that are broken or not working within the center, It is the city's responsibility to repair, replace or correct these issues. Several have been reported but no repairs have been made. It was recommended that Melinda, Kamie and Bryan meet with Rachel from Public Works and Ricky, City Manager, to determine responsibility for the maintenance of the Community Center in order to continue to attract those wishing to utilize the facility.

Pocket Park. The Pocket Park, located at 218 West 6th was "gifted" to Okmulgee Mainstreet by Charlotte Newport in memory of her husband, Jim Newport, 20+ years ago. Miss Mary's Market and Wonderfully Made Therapy have financed mowing this past year. They were hoping other groups would volunteer to cover this expense in the future. MainStreet pays monthly bills to the city for water, trash and sewage in addition to electricity. The City of Okmulgee charges \$61.00/month and PSO is averaging slightly less than \$30.00/month for a total of \$721.38 since January of 2024. The flower beds have not been addressed and they are very much overgrown. Andy received a \$6,000 estimate to clear all the beds back to original design. Discussion was held about possibly selling the property or perhaps a "lease to own" with Mithral Adventures, adjoining property to the south. Rusty is to contact Charlotte Newport about passing it on to someone else. Margaret made the motion and Rusty seconded to terminate the city account. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Organization/Membership/Fundraising - Margaret Hess will accept responsibility as chairperson. She will research responsibilities of this committee with Tamara at the state office. She suggested the possibility of adding "Film & Movies" to this committee.

Promotions - Kamie - Chili Fest is the next event for MS being held on October 12 on the Square. Vendor space will be handled by Christie Baldrige, spots will be \$50 per site. Activities will include but not be limited to: 5K race organized by Katie and the YMCA, Cornhole tournament, Pumpkin Chunkin, Kid Zone, Hot Pepper Contest, Master Gardners, an adoption event by The Humane Society and Kraft vendors as well as politicians as this is an election year. Debbie Haynes reported many of our Chili Fest supplies are in John McConnell's building on the west end of 6th street. Electrical boxes will need to be located, possible in the Carpet Store - Margaret is to contact Don Conners to obtain a key to this space.

Economic Vitality - Chris Azbell will serve as Chairperson. Chris is continuing to gather support and information about erecting a Will Rogers statue on the NW corner of the Square, He will coordinate with the Design Committee. He has obtained letters of support from Shavon with the Muscogee Nation and the Will Rogers Museum in Claremore. He will continue work to utilize the T-Mobil Grant for funding. A resolution was previously passed to utilize the sidewalk spot to erect the statue.

Discussion was held concerning a possible premier for Sarah's Oil in Okmulgee. Locations were discussed including The Orpheum Theater and the MCN College. Several MS Board members met with film location scouts to debrief their recent use of downtown Okmulgee for filming. Suggestions were made by both sides for improvement for the next film crew. Suggestions were made to have a film & music office as well as infographics for the crew containing needed information with phone numbers and contact information for necessary partners during filming.

Melinda is researching costs to prepare a request to the Viersen Family Foundation, deadline September 15, for benches, banners, garbage cans and facade improvement grants. She has checked with the city to make sure they are not making plans for the same.

It was suggested we prepare a report to be presented at the City Council meeting in September. Further discussion about funding possibilities will take place at the Board training in Yukon on August 20th.

Design Committee - Andy reported Umbrella Alley continues to have wind issues. It was decided to finish installing the rest of the umbrellas as soon as lifts and bucket truck are available.

Okmulgee Rising Updates:

1. GCTC - enrollment is at 120% capacity.
2. Muscogee Nation - Cross deputization was recently implemented between the Okmulgee Police force and the MCN Light Horse police department. This will allow both entities to clarify and work together on both tribal and city issues.
3. OSUIT - Graduation will be August 22 with over 400 graduates. Enrollment is up for the coming trimester. Move-in will be September 2 & 3 with classes starting Sept 4.
4. City - no report
5. Chamber of Commerce - no report
6. Okmulgee Public Schools - the Board was introduced to Jr. Class Board representative, Randi Jackson. Welcome, Randi!

7. YMCA - The Y will be distributing \$10,000 worth of school supplies on a first come, first served basis on August 17. Fall sports are kicking off. After school care and summer camps were funded with a \$250,000 grant. The grant money has run out but students will not be charged for continued care this fall. Katie needs \$100,000 to continue these programs, she is working with a grant writer and will hopefully continue these much needed programs.

The PAWS Program currently has 17 mentors who have given over 191 hours since its inception. The mentors meet with identified students once a week from 4:30-5:30.

Old Business:

Tulsa Area United Way - Chris Azbell is to confer with the Tulsa Area United Way to extend an invitation to meet with MainStreet for information on various programs, especially the Day of Caring. Allison Bailey is the United Way Representative for Okmulgee for the coming year.

Pecan Festival - the Chamber of Commerce will hold an event at the MCN the same day as Chili Fest. No further details were made available.

5 Board members, Rusty, Margaret, Mary, Andy, and Chris will attend the Board Training in Yukon on August 22.

Melinda will contact Brian at A & B Distributors as well as Scott Fetgatter about bottled water for Chili Fest.

New Business:

Jill Rhodes reported the Rotary Club will be hosting "Back to the 80's" Bingo Night at the Okmulgee Elks Club on Monday, September 23. Tickets are \$30 and are available from any Rotary Club member. A sponsor letter will be mailed. A request was made to MS to provide copies. Request was approved.

The Annual Mainstreet Awards Banquet will be held Tuesday, September 24, 2024 at the Embassy Suites in Oklahoma City. Okmulgee Mainstreet will purchase a table for 8 for \$360.00. Seats are available to Board members and staff on a first come/first served basis.

Date of Next Meeting: September 19, 2024, 8:00 am Mabrey Meeting Room