

FEBRUARY 5, 2024

ASHLAND BETTERMENT COALITION

BOARD MEETING

The Ashland Betterment Coalition held its February 2024 Board Meeting on Monday, February 5, 2024 at Ashland City Hall. Members in attendance were, Izzy Smith, Brittney Harty, Sharon Adams, Lizzie Benke, Debbie Mudd and Loren Plank with Galen Wilhoit, Jessica Adams Ward and Tara Blu joining by ZOOM. Meeting was called to order by President, Izzy Smith and after introductions, Galen Wilhoit gave the Treasurer's Report for January 2024.

Beginning Balance:	\$10,066.13
Deposit Totals:	\$ 900.00
Withdrawals:	\$ 50.00
Ending Balance	\$10,916.13

Of the ending balance, \$3,662.86 remains of the \$5,000 received from the City of Ashland in 2023 for administration costs, leaving a net of \$7,253.27. Currently, there is an outstanding check in the amount of \$150. Brittney added that of the ending balance, \$1,375 is earmarked for 2024 Community Fireworks expense.

Izzy began with **New Business** which included discussion on the upcoming **Trivia Night** scheduled for March 19, 2024. Brittney expressed there is information available from last year on the Google Drive to assist in this year's planning process. Hopefully we can again partner with Woody's to hold the event there, Galen will make that contact to hopefully get them on board. It worked extremely well and Keith Winscott ended up contributing the pizza because he did such great business from our event. Izzy proposes we have a committee for Trivia Night planning. Jessica and Sharon volunteered to be on that committee. Brittney suggests we tie the event with March Madness that begins at the same time. Galen is not sure if he can commit to planning due to work commitments. The suggestion of considering Eagle Knoll was brought up but Brittney felt it was better that we keep it within the City of Ashland. Izzy suggests we duplicate what we did in 2023 because it worked well and we helped out a local business with the great evening they had. There were 9 tables with 8 at each table. Gave the option of table costs and individual cost to guests. Will let the high school know so they could possibly have a team or two involved.

Fireworks are set for July 20, 2024 and the YMCA wants to play a bigger part in planning the event this year possibly with an earlier start for games and socializing. We welcome their additional help and input.

Izzy discussed updating the By-Laws because there is obsolete information that needs updating. Will need to contact the City of Ashland after we edit. It is thought they composed the original By-Laws document.

Two bills have been introduced in the 2024 Legislative Session by Representative Tim Wilson of St. Charles. Izzy received information about the bills, HB 1935 and HB 1936. we introduced the wording to our group and discussed how they could help our mission. House Bill 1935 is more directed to our plans and vision for our community.

Brittney Harty is leaving our group to move next week to St. Augustine, Florida to join her husband in his new job. We now have voted and approved Debbie Mudd to be our new Vice-President with Lizzie Benke as an assistant in various capacities. They will make a great team and look forward to the continuation of this important role on our Executive Board. Brittney reviewed what she would be sending over to our new officers and items they needed to be aware of. We bid Brittney safe travels, best wishes on this new journey in life.

ARPA grant application was updated, the Boone County Commissioners has received our application. There have been over 100 applications with 54 million dollars requested and there are 6.5 million dollars available to be distributed, so VERY competitive. Izzy gave an over view of what we included in our application for the \$100,000 we requested and how the process will progress. If we do not get approved for the requested amount, they could come back and offer us a lessor amount and possibly a revision to our application. Members will remain updated as we know anything during the selection process. We feel positive the community would rally around us if we do get approval in bringing our plan to reality.

Brittney reminded that there is a \$50,000 annual grant available through T-Mobile we could take advantage of.

Looking at meeting times and the option to participate through ZOOM is a good option for us and we decided at this time, we will continue with the schedule we have now because the ZOOM option is a great alternative.

Missouri Main Street Connection is still in need of receiving the Annual Assessment. Izzy will work on the report and get it to them as soon as she can. We need to budget and plan for the required meetings they hold throughout the year. We are a paid Affiliate Member and their requirements include two members attend two meetings per year.

For our March Meeting, we plan to hold an Open House as a membership drive event. We are going to try and tap into our "Senior" population to bring retired professionals into our group that can offer valuable expertise, information and flexible schedules that could be very beneficial. We have 1 Board Vacancy at this time and with membership drive efforts we hopefully can fill that vacant spot. Tara discussed about reaching out to the community and which format is best to reach our target demographic. Tara gave a great suggestion about recognizing those community members who help us in our efforts. Do a "Shout Out" in the paper monthly to recognize one person who has given their time to help ABC. Also, have possible signs made and take advantage of electronic signs to recognize our monthly celebrity.

Debbie will set up a Survey Monkey site so we can do a community survey to find out what our SOBOCO population would like to see ABC do for the community and how they prioritize what is important. We will come up with five questions for people to answer.

Suggestion of having traveling meetings or special meeting features to bring people in.

Meeting Adjourned