

**BRILLION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
BOARD MINUTES**

**April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Brillion Public School – Tadych’s EconoFoods**

**12:00 PM**

**1) CALL TO ORDER:**

Jason Ruebl called the meeting to order at 12:15 PM.

**ROLL CALL:** Present were Jason Ruebl, Todd Brehmer, Jennifer Kolberg, Doug Neils, Mark Vechart, Tim Hanson, Vineta Caune-Meyer & Wendy Allen. Also present were and Michelle Ruebl Nick Madison & Cheryl Welch-nonvoting. Absent were Gary Kabat & Bill Veit.

**2) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:.**

**Motion** – Mark Vechart made Motion to Approve Agenda. Seconded by Jennifer Kolberg. Call vote taken. Motion carried. Agenda Approved.

**3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES –April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Chamber Board Meeting.**

**Motion** – Todd Brehmer made motion of approval of Minutes. Seconded by Jennifer Kolberg. Call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

**4) PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Jason Ruebl**

Welcome to the Board Tim Hanson. Tim will be replacing Mark Vechart as the representative for Endries International.

**5) SECRETARY-TREASURER REPORT:**

Michelle Ruebl presented April Secretary and Treasurer Financial Report.

**Motion** –Doug Neils made a motion to approve the April Secretary & Financial Reports. Seconded by Vineta Caune-Meyer. Call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

**6) COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**A. Business After Five:**

- a. -Canceled Join Me Realty at the request of Bullseye-reschedule for Fall
- b. -Brillion Nature Center –tbd –Will likely be in or around September
- c. -Village Hearthstone – May 14<sup>th</sup>, however with a change in management, this may change.
- d. -Groskopp –Hoping for June

**B. Beer, Wine & Cheese** - Completed numbers are in. Recommendations are not in yet

**C. Annual Golf Outing:** Looking for volunteers for the committee: Vineta Caune-Meyer, Jennifer Kolberg & Cheryl Welch volunteered. Michelle Ruebl will send an email out to last years’ committee along with any new volunteers to meet in May.

## 7) NEW BUSINESS:

**A. Next Meeting:** May 20<sup>th</sup> Brillion Community Center – BP.

**B. Guidelines for contribution requests to Organizations.** –Jason Ruebl talked about the topic of organizations that request money from the chamber. In the past we've only given to the Optimist Club. Last month we chose to split the amount between the Brillion Optimist Club and the Brillion Area Jaycees due to the nature of the two events. Mark Vechart suggested adding a budget line to give out with a maximum so when requests come in, we had some flexibility to give more. Doug Neils mentioned we should make guidelines that the funds may only be allocated if it is for the betterment of the community. Jason Ruebl asked the board what kind of stipulations should we have? Vineta Caune-Meyer said she felt it must help the community rather than just the individual organization. Mark Vechart said we should do a maximum dollars to be spent. Doug Neils said it should be maximum \$100 to each until the funds are gone with a maximum \$500 total. Michelle Ruebl asked if we should make sure the donate yearly to Optimist and Jaycees for the Electric Parade and Brillionfest within that \$500? Doug Neils talked about rather than doing set amount, doing a percentage of the \$500 and then allow \$200 to go to other organizations. Jennifer Kolberg asked if we should limit it to just the betterment of the community or if it could enhance tourism as well? Jason Ruebl said it would make sense that it promotes the city of Brillion. Mark Vechart said to be sure to mention Brillion Area. Michelle Ruebl will create policy for the next meeting to approve. Cheryl Welch stated to make sure we are consulting with the Tourism Committee to help as well.

**C. Brochure** – Tabled to next month. Michelle Ruebl will print and bring along.

**D. Speaker for Banquet.** – Nick Madison mentioned having Pete Kittel as a speaker would be a has accomplished the Hall of Fame for the High School football and basketball. He is the only coach who has won the state level for both sports. He would likely be interested. Tim Hanson said he spoke for 15 minutes to the 8<sup>th</sup> grades and was fantastic.

**Open Board Position:** Michelle Ruebl stated that with Bill Veit stepping down officially, there is now an Open Board position through the end of the year. This position lasts through December. The Board should make some calls to try to fill this position. Mark Vechart brought up the fact that PPI has grown in size. He questions if they should now have a permanent seat on the Board? Doug Neils Made a motion to contact them to see if they have interest. If they do, then the Board should revisit a policy/constitution change to represent to the membership. Todd Brehner seconded the motion. All approved.

## 8) OLD BUSINESS:

**A. Membership Renewals** – Michelle Ruebl did not have these finished for the second mailing. This will be done by May's meeting.

**B. Chamber Bucks locations** : Jason Ruebl stated he did not get answers on this. He will have answers for May's meeting.

## 9) City & Room Tax Updates - Cheryl Welch

**A. Room Tax update:** There is a meeting this coming Wednesday at 4pm to set up policies on how to apply for monies from the committee. This will be another revenue for events that encourage tourism.

**B. Planning Meeting Update** Cheryl Welch stated they are trying to engage the educational businesses. Working on various themes, committees and priorities. City is working on creating a budget around these priorities. Some will need to be volunteer hours but there may need to be some budget lines. This summer we will have 8 more hanging baskets heading towards Hwy 10. The Chamber tags on the current poles will be moved to the pots. New flag poles sponsored by the PDA. The legion will maintain them, but the city will put them up. May 12<sup>th</sup> at 9am and again on June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9-noon will be a tour of vacant properties in the area. The public is invited to view the empty spaces in the hopes to fill some of these properties. The board then discussed various ways of drawing up interest to these buildings.

**10) School District Update – Nick Madison** – Governors budget is ha heavy negative on our schools. Nick Madison is hoping that won't happen. He would like an inflationary scale on the budgets. Wants to keep good quality teachers in the Brillion Schools. We have 3-4 openings with zero applicants at this time. We do have some retirees coming up. Nick Madison asked Michelle Ruebl to review the policy. In the past the Chamber has given Chamber Bucks to retirees. Demolition has started. They are hoping to do construction soon. This is the referendum monies. The school is also looking to update the STEM and to upgrade the facility to reflect repurpose and redesign how we teach science. To be more hands on and problem based. Other side is to promote at a younger level, key local economy as well as our national economy. He is looking for private and public partnerships. Presentation is set up for May 20<sup>th</sup>. Invitations will be mailed out.

**ADJOURNMENT: Motion** Doug Neils moved to adjourn. Seconded by Todd Brehmer. Call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:25pm

Respectfully Submitted

Michelle Ruebl, Secretary/Treasurer – Brillion Chamber of Commerce