

Frio Canyon Chamber of Commerce

Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 5, 2018 @ 12:00 pm

Board Members in Attendance

Doug Shoemaker - President

AnaLisa Glass - Treasurer

Brad Hart - Vice President

Rob Petrovics

Phillip Rodriguez

Brett Rimkus

OPEN FORUM STYLE MEETING

President Doug Shoemaker welcomed everyone and since, what we as directors thought would be a lengthy discussion, he opened the floor to discuss Leakey Festivity of Lights.

FESTIVITY OF LIGHTS DISCUSSION

Vickie Crispin began the presentation for Leakey Festivity of Lights whose mission statement was generalized as Community Pride Through Public Celebration

- Lighting ceremony Thanksgiving evening to kick-off the Christmas Season.
- Professional stager will lead us through the process of decorations
 - 5 large trees wrapped on the lawn
 - Lighting on the top
 - Lighting 3 -5 foot wreaths
- Stager's recommendations
 - Wholesale sale of lights
 - Staging will begin on November 1, 2018

Penny stated:

The 2nd year has hopes to have more lights and build from year to year

Commissioners approved and are willing to assist

Working with Downtown Leakey Inc, Dark Skies, and Chamber of Commerce

Penny then discusses the need for electrical infrastructure on the courthouse lawn and the commissioners are ready to tackle that.

Discussion commenced with members – Manuel Rubio Commissioner was willing to help with the electrical infrastructure.

Festivity of Lights - the budget is not known, but the chairs have an idea.

Lana Carr stated that the Chamber or anyone cannot begin with county assistance for 2018 until 2018 budget is approved.

Brad discussed the C of C thoughts on contacting the businesses and put them in charge of their own decorating. Ask them and request it. And if they do not do it, then the C of C could offer to step in and help.

Penny discussed to get as many volunteers as possible for the courthouse, even a lift for the stager

The Festivity of Lights Chairs would like for the Frio Canyon C of C to support the businesses. Brad asked for Penny to get the specs for lighting, so we can work with the businesses.

Tessa thought *Christmas on the Frio* would be better than Christmas on the Square, to incorporate all of the events in the Canyon around Christmastime. All seemed to like that idea. Brett said we needed to be careful with the identification of Frio, because people will automatically think Concan. We need to individualize Leakey but work with others also.

Patti Berkstresser said the warm lighting will definitely help

Brad suggested we could use some maybe use some Chamber money and help the businesses that don't or cannot do it. Penny said they are getting lights for 35% wholesale.

Penny said Stager said post cards on the lawn are a problem, so we need to figure out where those will go.

Discussion of the electric companies and the highway dept working with us on the light poles and hanging lights and signs. Vickie says BEC was easy to work with on the banners in the past. New AEP person in Uvalde and maybe Bill Dillard could help, but he will send the contact info to Penny. Brad brought up a Christmas night parade we could tie into. Leakey parade of Lights Maybe...

GENERAL DISCUSSION ABOUT EVENTS AND VOLUNTEERISM

Doug talked about how the board and board meetings and structured little different and introduced the board members and let everyone know we are brand new. He discussed events that we want to keep – July Jubilee and Christmas on the Square and the Gala, and that meetings would now be the 1st Monday of every month and the Director's meeting would be at the same time.

Brett mentioned the 1st Baptist church and maybe do a Trunk or Treat around the Square on Halloween as something that would be easy and incorporate business. It would create a safe area and C of C could sponsor that or assist the Masonic Lodge.

It was brought up that we need assistance and maybe have sponsors for each of these events. Penny brought up the fact that there are many individuals that would help but Patty Couvillon said we need to put more info out there.

Charlie said it might be better to hire out some of these events out, but if we let the band, churches, etc. Do them there might not be consistency. Brad says churches would work and it would be consistent if we have them follow our rules, but they could own each event.

Brett talked about the importance of Facebook and Insta in getting out information and how the posts can go out simultaneously.

Sandy Lynam thought it was very important to recognize Chamber volunteers/members like they used to at the Chamber Banquet, and it was discussed to maybe start that up again. Then Miss Frio River was discussed and maybe implement it at a different time and a different year.

We all talked about trash on Highway 83 to pick up trash, who is the responsible, and discussed when and how we could make sure that is cleaned.

Chamber maps were discussed, and it is too late to have new ones made, but we can reorder. Brad brought up that the downtown map is not accurate and we to work on that. Tessa will be coming to the Sept meeting with a look at the downtown map. It was brought up that maybe events should be put on the map, and it was stated that the major ones already are. Chamber maps will be a 2019 project that will have to be completed in 2018.

Penny stated that she thought chamber business cards would be good to hand to tourists, and Brett said Garner had them and on the back of these cards were important local numbers, I.e. sheriff's dept., Carquest number, etc.

Have Wi-Fi hotspots available for tourists.

Robyn Albright said she would like the minutes of the meeting to be sent out to the members that could not make it. And she believes that that is important, so everyone know that is going on. it was agreed that a few want the minutes posted, so the directors will discuss how when and where. Doug said we will send out the meeting minutes and the proposed bylaw changes in an email.

Patty Berkstresser announced the Library Gala at the American Legion Hall in March and would love to have everyone attend though there are only 12 tickets left.

Patty Couvillon commended the current board for stepping up to the plate and not allowing the Chamber to dissipate.

Brad ended with a goal to make the chamber automated. and Doug said this is the biggest Chamber meeting he has ever seen and to spread the word and bring the people.

Patty Couvillon made the motion to adjourn and Lana seconded it.