



Place: Romers Catering, Gathering Room

Date: 8-5-19

**Members present:** Carol Bruns, Frank Urwin, John Yoder, Brad Piper, Jacob Rismiller, Matt Lammers, Lisa Niekamp Urwin, Karen Romer, Andy Schmitmeyer, Kelly Baker, Josh Schmackers, Frank Wills Arling, David Romer, Leah Koesters, Kim Baumer

Josh Schmackers called meeting to order. Minutes from the June meeting were approved by motion from Frank Urwin & second by Kelly Baker.

David Romer gave the treasurer report:

\$746.91 - checking

\$36,224.18 - savings

He also shared information from the **St. Henry Picnic:** Raffle tickets - last year in 2018 @ \$8,244.00 / this year in 2019 @ \$11,060 (\*\*\$8277.00 profit this year). Total prizes were about the same, only a few chose to not participate with the new \$50 minimum prize. And some businesses increased and gave more this year. We also had removed our Chamber prize from the ticket, everyone agreed was a positive move. Thoughts for next year would be to incorporate more information or advertising inside booth on the banner signage, or we could also do a sandwich board that could be placed outside in front of the booth with a list of prizes from the raffle. The sandwich board could be wood boards with a hinge at the top (A frame) - vinyl banner material with the list of prizes should make it weather friendly. Looking for a visual for people to see they are in the right place to turn in their tickets or to purchase tickets. Additional discussion on this after the first of the year when planning for next year picnic.

**Chamber Chance game booth** - positive comments received from this new feature that was in the booth during the picnic. The size of the board / placement of the board within the tent was also discussed & agreed it would work well again next year. The stand & banner can be reused year to year with minor updates of incoming/outgoing members. We would like to sell 2-3 boards at the picnic next year with additional advertising of the board through Facebook or an email to Chamber members. The 3 winners from this year were:

1st place Karen Romer @ \$350.00

2nd place Ron Rindler @ \$150.00

3rd place Brent Schlater @ \$100.00

The **1st place square was Bright Future Daycare** - they will have their 2020 Chamber fees waived! David was going to contact them to let them know. The winners received Village Money. It was discussed at the meeting if cash or village money should be used for the prizes. Village Money seemed to be favored by majority. All agreed we need to advertise clearly next year on the prize winnings.

**St Henry Village Map** - Karen Romer presented an old map (approx 2011) that had been requested by some to be updated. It was suggested that if it was updated, it would be nice to have the businesses categorized by type of business showing eating Places, Shopping places, etc... Pros & cons were mentioned with having a paper form of the map. This would constantly need to be

updated with new businesses coming to town, other businesses no longer open, new roads, subdivisions, etc...

Quotes are going to be obtained from Messenger Press to see how much it would take to put an updated map together & the printing cost that would be acquired each time they need to be updated.

**St. Henry Holiday Open House** - Nov 8, 9, 10th

15 participating businesses last year & we are anticipating about the same turn out again this year. Each participating business will set their own hours within the three day event. We will be doing group advertising this year on Facebook, along with Facebook boost posts & Like/Share contest. It was also discussed to look into doing a direct postcard mailer to each home in the zip code or school district. Lisa & Leah from TTT both mentioned it is very economical to send the postcards compared to the Daily Standard ad we have done in the past. We are looking to firm up the exact pricing & how many zip codes we can include into the group mailer & entertain the idea of doing this mailer INSTEAD OF the Daily Standard group ad. Each business can still do their own individual ad in the newspaper like before. Postcards could have a tear off that could be used for a drawing to show how effective the mailer was.

Advertising budget of \$750 was proposed to keep the same as in years past by Kim Baumer. Matt Lammers approved & Frank Urwin seconded.

**Thank you** was received from Erik Eyink - St Henry Boy Scouts - we had donated \$100 to their scouting trip

Sammy Gast - **Southwest Ohio HOBY** participant - we had donated \$100 at the June meeting, but the money was returned to us. The St Henry School ended up paying her way.

Josh thanked **The Gardens at St. Henry** for sponsoring the Stress Relief.

**Pot of Gold** winner - Brad Piper from Bobcat of Mercer. \$26.00

Motion to adjourn the meeting from Frank Urwin & second by Matt Lammers

Minutes taken and prepared by

*Kim Baumer*

Vice President