



Place: Romers Banquet Hall

Date: 8/9/22

**Members present:** John Yoder, Michelle Dues, Eydie Kremer, Frank Urwin, Kim Baumer, Lisa Niekamp-Urwin, Kelley Baker, Sharon Rindler, Josh Schmackers, Beth Butler, Cyndi Orick, Steve Koesters, Julie Garke, Jen Burns, Amy Wendel, Shawn Dues, and several other invited guests. Over 30 folks in attendance!

President John Yoder called the meeting to order.

Minutes from the June 6, 2022, meeting were approved following a motion from Frank and seconded by Kelley.

Jared Ebbing was our special guest. He explained what economic development means, community development is where it begins. He stressed people are our greatest asset and he works on reinvesting in our people to bring them home to the area. Focus on what got us here, focus on our people and the strength of our individual communities. He shared Hometown Opportunities has a new website that will be rolling out this fall with new features. There are 662 jobs listed at the current time! He encourages businesses to allow high school students to job shadow to learn what the business has to offer. The new website will show which businesses allow job shadowing opportunities and students will be able to research this on the website. Community pride is very strong here and the future is our students and showing them what's available in our area. He believes Tri-Star has the biggest impact on our community as it offers a work release program to their students. Current enrollment is 630 students.

The lack of land is a limiting factor in attracting large new businesses. There are also limited land for new housing opportunities.

He shared how his department can help small businesses get started or grow. They can help with a revolving loan and assistance with consulting while working with the WSU business plan development department. They can also assist business plans and local banks.

Andrea Faber, vice provost at WSU Lake Campus shared what the business development program at WSU can provide to local businesses.

John spoke about SOCA (Southern Ohio Chamber Alliance) and what services they offer Chamber members. This includes health insurance and retirement planning.

We set the holiday open house budget at \$1,000. The open house will be November 11, 12 and 13. All Chamber members are eligible to participate in this event. At this time there are sixteen businesses involved in the open house. Motion was made by Kelley and seconded by Sharon.

Breakfast pizza was provided by SH One Stop, and it was delicious.

Pot of gold was won by Lisa Niekamp-Urwin – a whopping \$49!!

Michelle motioned to adjourn, and Sharon seconded it.

**Next meeting Monday September 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. It will be at Romer's Party Room and Tom Wisvari from Cooper Farms be our guest speaker.**

*Eydie Kremer  
Chamber Secretary*