

# WARREN AREA CHAMBER MEETING Minutes

*Wednesday, August 2, 2023. Lunch provided by East of Chicago.*

**Introduction of Chamber members and guests**, Please be sure to sign the attendance sheet. Thank you for your investment in the Warren community!

**Welcome** - Pastor John Boyanowski opened in prayer.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting** - Minutes were reviewed. Jeff Souder motioned to approve, Terry Miller seconded. Motion carried.

**Previous Treasurer's Report**- Report was reviewed. Joyce Buzzard motioned to approve, John Boyanowski seconded. Motion carried. Update on Samuel Jones Breakfast. We served 92 this year, and many items and supplies donated.

## **Spotlight Business**

- **Warren Public Library**— Robert Neuenschwander shared the Warren Public Library has been serving the community for 103 years. They house 17,800 books, have over 1500 movies, and have thousands of ebooks available too. They just finished their summer reading program which went very well! Working with the Boys and Girls club in their new facility was a huge success. September is National Library Month. They will be looking for community support for local businesses to give a discount or an incentive for library card holders who present their library cards for the month of September. They are looking for a new staff member as Susan Mills just retired after 20 years of faithful service.

## **New Business**

- **Downtown Flowers 2024**- The Chamber Board is recommending Gebhart's Greenhouse continue doing the flowers. They will be ordering the flowers this fall. Thank you to local businesses who are doing a great job watering the flowers.
- **Chamber Meal RSVP's** - Thank you to Joyce Buzzard for continuing to call for the RSVP's for the meal to be served at the Chamber meetings. Thank you to each of you for your help in knowing an accurate number of meals to be served for the local businesses providing the meals.
- **Chamber Financial Decisions** - The Chamber Board is recommending the financial decisions to be made are approved by the Chamber Membership at each monthly meeting based on the financial statement, for an expenditure over \$250. We will be reviewing the By-Laws to ensure compliance.

## **Old Business**

- **Scarecrow Festival** - Friday, October 27, 2023. Bippus State Bank is coordinating this year. All businesses are encouraged to have games with prizes for the kids. There will be three food trucks and the chili cook-off. We will send via email an update, and history of this event.
- **I-69 Billboard** - We are still working on updating a new design for the proposed billboards. Then we will be getting 2-3 quotes. We need to ensure a proper installation to meet safety requirements.

- **Eclipse Party Update-** April 8th, 2024 about 3:10 PM total eclipse. We are working with Huntington County Visitors Center and Huntington County Community Foundation for grants, funding and coordination of events for Huntington County, Markle and Warren.

**Updates:**

- **Downtown Park** – Jeff Souder is asking for help with the Final Friday concerts. Rick & Tammy Zehner will be taking care of the signs for traffic, and sponsor signs and storing them back in the EOC basement. Terry Daniels will coordinate trash and new trash liners. Thank you to Terry Miller II for donating black trash liners. Jeff is still looking for a volunteer to move the 4 yellow street barriers and putting them back at the Town building storage. A change in the 2024 Final Friday lineup. Since the April Final Friday has needed to move into the KBC the last two years, we will skip the April concert and add a mid-month concert during the summer.
- **HC Visitor’s Bureau** - Tina Disch shared the Visitors Guides are now out, please pick some up to distribute, and share in your local business. The Warren Comfort Inn is under new management and undergoing full renovation. They will have a party room available to rent. Michelle Hurtt is the new manager. Her email address is michelle.comfortinnwarren@gmail.com.
- **HC Community Foundation** - Lilly Scholarships open up the 24th-25th, these are open to any Huntington County resident. Welcome to Courtney who is the new coordinator of the Early Childcare Coalition. Please contact Courtney by email: courtney@huntingtoncountycommunityfoundation.org
- **HC Council and Commissioner** – Terry Miller is encouraged that there are many good things going on in Huntington County. There is much interest in North East Indiana: housing, childcare, and economic development. Tom Wall shared they are working together to increase police force, and safety officers at the schools.
- **HCCSC** - John Trout shared HNHS is under major renovations including a complete renovations of the Science department.
- **Historic Warren** -Becky Souder announced the Historic Warren Holiday Walk and Festival of Trees will be Friday, November 17, 2023 from 5:00-8:00 PM.
- **United Way** - Sarah Kemp shared their campaign will be opening soon.
- **SSF** - Joyce Buzzard invited everyone interested in helping with the festival to our next meeting which will be Tuesday night August 8, 2023 6:30 pm at the KBC.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting will be September 6, 2023.

**Positions:**

President – Cheryl DeWeese

1st Vice President – Tammy Zehner

2nd Vice President – Krysta Fornal

Secretary – Melinda Daniels

Treasurer – Patti Bustos

**Terms:**

Rose Broyles 2021-2023 – 1<sup>st</sup> Term

Cheryl DeWeese 2021-2023 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Term

Jeff Souder to fulfill 2023 term

Patti Bustos 2022-2024 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Term

Krysta Fornal 2022-2024 – 1<sup>st</sup> Term

Tammy Zehner 2022-2024 – 1<sup>st</sup> Term

Melinda Daniels 2023-2025 – 1<sup>st</sup> Term

Troy Drayer 2023-2025 – 1<sup>st</sup> Term

Robert Neuenschwander 2023-2025 – 1st Term