

# WARREN AREA CHAMBER MEETING Minutes

*Wednesday, October 4, 2023. Lunch provided by Son-Rise Bakery*

**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 Troy Drayer opened in prayer.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting** – Minutes were reviewed. Terry Miller motioned to approve; Tina Disch seconded. Motion carried.

**Previous Treasurer's Report** – Report was reviewed. Bonnie Boxel motioned to approve; Becky Souder seconded. Motion carried.

## **Spotlight Businesses**

**Bippus State Bank** – Patti Bustos provided many statistics about the growth of the for the Warren Bippus Branch. Bippus State Bank has been around for 112 years and has had a location in Warren since October 2016.

**Historic Warren** – Becky Souder reported that Historic Warren Indiana Main Street has been active for 12 years. It is a 501c3 which means it can apply for grants. These grants helped cover Riverside Park development. A 3<sup>rd</sup> mural has been added at The Exchange and Warren will be included in the Indiana Mural Trail Map. They are revitalizing The Exchange building which is the old PNC building. Becky noted that the Holiday Walk, Festival of Trees, Gingerbread Houses event is Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup> 5-8pm. Entry forms are due by Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> to be included in the marketing. If you visit Historic Warren's Facebook page, you can order a Warren t-shirt and show your love for Warren.

## **New Business**

- **Nominations** for the Chamber Board's new term. Qualifications include current paid membership. Nominations include Miranda Bolinger with Hoosier Real Estate, Olivia Bolinger with Warren Service and Supply, John Boyanowski with Solid Rock Church of Warren, Terry Miller II with East of Chicago, Mike Ralston with Elite Ag and Audra Rittenhouse with Warren Boys & Girls Club.
- **Taste of Warren** will be held Saturday, March 2, 2024, at Dogwood Glen Golf Club.

## **Old Business**

- **Scarecrow Festival** – Friday, October 27, 2023. Patti Bustos reported there are still spots available for booths or games. There will be no selling of craft items. This is an event for the kids. There are currently 5 chilis for the chili cookoff. Hoping to add more. There will be 4 food trucks. The new banner has been hung downtown. Thanks to Bippus State Bank and Citizens Telephone for purchasing the banner. Thanks to the guys at Citizens for hanging the banner. The banner has no date and can be used every year. Now, we hope for good weather.
- **I69 Billboard** – Tammy Zehner shared the billboard design for both northbound and southbound lanes of I69. Tom Wall offered to let us cover the Golfo Di Napoli sign on the trailer at Exit 278 at no charge. This can be seen from the southbound lane of I69. We only need to pay for the printing of the billboard. The quoted cost to print from Bad Apple Graphics is \$520 and we would

like to add \$30 for hanging materials. We asked for a motion to approve this expenditure. Terry Miller motioned to approve; Becky Souder seconded. Motion carried. Tammy will order the billboard banner from Bad Apple Graphics and Tom Wall has offered his employees/company to hang the banner when it's ready. This is expected to be completed before the end of October. We will request to print the northbound lane banner when the structure is ready from the owner of the sign.

- **Eclipse Party** – Monday, April 8, 2024. Huntington Co. received the \$2000 Eclipse Grant. The money will be shared within the county. Tina Disch reports to plan on a full eclipse. Planning for people management and following the EMA of what to do. The ideas are still in the works but include having special shopping days, craft show, music, and activities. The goal is to have something planned so people can come to Warren and see the total eclipse. It will last 2 minutes. Hotels are booking up and those businesses off I69 will need a parking plan for those who just drive and stop. There are still a lot of plans and preparations to be made. If you would like to help let us know.

#### Updates

- **Huntington County Chamber** – Huntington County Coffee Connections are the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month held at the Habecker Dining Commons at HU. The Entrepreneurial Leadership Council met in August at The Clubhouse, formerly Lafontaine Golf Club. Next meeting will be in Roanoke. Steve is working with Jeff and Becky Souder to set up a meeting in Warren for the first quarter of 2024. Brady Smekens recommended everyone to subscribe to the Huntington County Chamber newsletter that Steve Kimmel puts out. Full of valuable information and current events.
- **Downtown Park** – The recognition plaque is coming soon.
- **HC Visitors Bureau** – Leadership of Huntington is starting up. This is a group who will work on ways to develop new leaders for the community.
- **HC Council or Commissioner** – Terry Miller reported that economic development is happening a company is coming to Warren and Huntington Co. is growing. Things here are implemented elsewhere. Huntington Co. is financially sound. Reach out to him if you have questions.
- **HCCSC Board** – Becky Souder and Terry Miller spoke about the survey that is out from the school corporation. You can find the survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HCCSC2023>.  
The survey is gaining information about the perception of the school system and its initiatives.
- **Historic Warren** – Reported during Business Spotlight.
- **SSF** – Next meeting October 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm. The 1<sup>st</sup> annual craft show is November 11<sup>th</sup> at the KBC. There are 40+ vendors.

**Warren Neighborhood Association** – Taylor Wilburn has started the association in hopes to help people in the community get more involved in local organizations and committees. She passed out flyers.

**Creative Décor & More** – Candy Smith announced her new shop in Warren and is located at 123 N. Wayne Street. She currently has 12 consignors.