

**Kasson Chamber of Commerce
March 2024 General Membership Meeting Minutes**

Date: March 13, 2024 | **Location:** City of Kasson - Council Chambers | **Lunch** 11:30 PM | **Meeting** 12:00 PM

Board Members

Present: Tom Monson (President), Jennifer Galloway (Vice President), Ashley Kaplan (Secretary), Matt Bradford (Treasurer), Stevie Gransee, Angie Bowman-Malloy , Dan Ziebel, Sara Goodnow

Thank you Kwik Trip for sponsoring lunch!

1. Introductions
 - a. Welcome new chamber member- Card my Yard Rochester!
 - b. 27 members present
2. Minutes - sent electronically last month
 - a. Next month we will approve February and March minutes
3. Treasurer Report – presented by Matt Bradford
 - a. January 1st to today
 - b. 45 paid memberships so far this year
 - c. Scholarship Funds
 - d. So moved by Tim Ibisch and seconded by Dr. Christine A. Leska. Motion carried.
4. Speakers:
 - a. Stacy Brumfield, Workforce Development Inc: Doing the Work to Retain Diverse Candidates
 1. Stacy holds the dual role of Trades Program Coordinator and DEI Coordinator
 2. The Inclusive Workforce Employer Designation Program is open to business owners. The goal is to help businesses express a commitment to an inclusive and equitable workplace for all employees.
 3. Three cohorts since this program started in 2021 with 30 employers engaged. Four are currently designated: Zumbro Valley Health Center, McNeilus Truck, City of Rochester, City of Northfield
 4. [I/WE webpage](#) with access to interest form
5. St. Paddy's Day Event- Saturday March 9
 - a. This is the Chamber's first quarterly event of the year.
 - b. 5K: 135 participants. 16 sponsors. Over \$3,000 was raised for the scholarship fund.
 - c. 23 activities for the kids events in the afternoon. Estimating 350-400 people in attendance.

- d. Bagpipers performed at the Legion at 4pm.
 - e. 7 members hosted the first ever St. Paddy's Day Pub Crawl/Jig.
Winners: Natalie L; Ashley Davidson; Allison Whalen; Chalisa; Vicky; Erin Davis; Bruce
6. Dodge County Expo Saturday March 23- Kasson Chamber Basket Items
- a. The Chamber is open to more donations for this basket. Drop off at KMTelecom.
 - b. 1:15 Mullet Contest hosted by the Chamber
7. President Report
- a. Last After Hours event was at Chaotic Good Brewing on Thursday, March 7th.
 - b. Area Chambers are connecting to coordinate joint activities. Currently exploring a regional multi-chambered social in September.
 - c. New Resident Welcome Bags-all are welcome to stay today to fill bags.
 - d. Main Street Banners- Kasson Laser Graphics is coordinating with Public Works.
 - e. Kasson City Council Workshop- Tom and Ashley presented to this group on Saturday March 9.
 - f. Thank you to everyone who made the St. Paddy's Day event a success on March 9.
 - g. On March 10th, the Chamber also hosted Celebrity Bartending at the Legion with funds going to the Scholarship Fund.
8. City Update
- a. Work session was held on Saturday, March 9.
 - b. Clean up projects are getting finalized.
 - c. A few development projects are also in the works.
9. School Update
- a. Dr. Dave Thompson shared the following: The Kasson-Mantorville School District (KMSD) reviewed, adjusted, and restructured the remaining \$39.8 million bond debt, resulting in substantial savings of nearly \$1.5 million. Taxpayers in the district will experience reduced property tax bills, and the savings generated will be distributed over the remaining lifespan of the debt, which extends until February 2037.
 - b. Activities Update: Dodge County Wildcats Girls Hockey team was the state runner-up. Boys wrestling also performed at the state level for both the team and individuals. Our Knowledge Bowl, Robotics, and Speech Team are also going to state.
 - c. Dr. Dave Thompson introduced the newly hired superintendent, Ted Ihns. Mr. Ihns begins his role on July 1, 2024.
10. Other Announcements
- a. If you are able, please stay to help fill new resident welcome bags.
 - b. Green Shack is hosting an after hours on April 5th from 5:30-7:30.
 - c. Next Quarterly event is Friday, June 7th: Round and About

- d. MN Foodshare March Campaign: 105 S Mantorville Ave in Kasson. Items needed: Cereals, Canned Food and Soups, Baking Items, Canned Fruit, Monetary Donations.
11. Adjournment
- a. Next meeting 8:30-10:30 on April 10th at The Studio 121 West Main St

Mission: To promote, strengthen, and support the Kasson business community.