

# Kasson Chamber of Commerce

March 2022 General Membership Meeting Minutes

**Date:** March 9, 2022

**Location:** Kasson City Hall - New Council Chambers

**Time:** 12:00-1:00 PM (Lunch at 11:30 AM)

## **Board Members**

**Present:** Tom Monson (President), Matt Bradford (Treasurer), Jennifer Galloway (Vice President), Jenny Carrier (Secretary), Stevie Ersland, Dan Ziebel, Sara Goodnow, Angie Bowman, Jill Moosbrugger

**Absent:**

*Thank you Angie Bowman & Midwest Floor Solutions for sponsoring today's lunch!*

1. Introductions
2. Minutes - Approved (Chris Leska / Angie Bowman)
3. Treasurer Report
  - Copy of the treasurer's report was provided.
  - Expenses this month were for mainstreet planters and pots.
  - 59 paid members (please renew your membership with [Matt Bradford](#) at the bank
  - Paid members should receive a Chamber window cling.
  - Angie will reach out directly to members who have lapsed.
  - Community Book - content is updated, printing & layout estimate received. Contacting members to update advertisements. These are priced at \$100 to help cover the cost of production. If there are additional proceeds, they will be directed towards production cost of new community banners. (Open to chamber members now, if we don't fill all the open slots we will open to non-chamber members.)
4. President Report
  - **After Hours** - Home Federal Savings Bank is hosting/sponsoring on March 24 5:30-8 - drawing at 6:30 for \$200.
  - Working on ordering banners. Jill Moosbrugger will be taking photos of local landmarks for background usage. Waiting for nicer weather to do photos.
  - **Dodge County Expo Basket** - if you have an item to donate, contact Jennifer Galloway ASAP.
  - **City Workshop** - Matt, Sara, and I met with the City Council as a slot in the council's workshop. Excellent discussion covering 4 topics -
    - a. replacement of Christmas lights,
    - b. replacement of community banners,
    - c. use of chamber website to link/embed construction project updates impacting chamber members,
    - d. community branding towards prospective developers and new businesses.
  - Discussion was very productive. We'll be in discussions with the city on funding plans for both Christmas lights and community banners. Currently more information on cost and specs is being gathered. Sara Goodnow will spearhead the Chamber website linking working with City Engineer Brandon Theobald. More to come on community branding next month after I can further develop some concepts. City feedback - expand educational offerings particularly around succession planning, proliferate chamber mission as a clear message in the community, connect with Entrepreneurship Club at KM schools.
  - **Cyber-Security** - A reminder of best practices to avoid phishing schemes, malware, and other attacks in lieu of the phishing attempt a few weeks ago. Phishing attempts to mimic an individual you may be familiar with based on publicly available information (more

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sophisticated attempts can purchase stolen data from breaches). The email address, phone number, or other communication method will not be in control of the person being mimicked but will attempt to use common methods to disguise the message to appear it is. 1) Be aware of email addresses - if the address doesn't match the send, don't respond, click on links/open attachments, or forward. 2) Be suspicious of uncharacteristic requests ;Please discreetly purchase \$500 of gift cards for me;. 3) If suspicious, use a different medium to contact the sender in question - if it's an email, call or text them. 4) Report attempts and schemes to local authorities. 5) Be extra cautious right now - cyber attacks are elevated currently. Some experts believe this may be tied to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

## 5. Speaker: **Ashley Kincaid - People's Energy**

- Energy provider for outside of city of rochester for quite large area
- Programs
  - Co-op Connections → The Card & App (discount at certain businesses) to participate you just need some sort of a discount. We advertise it in our newsletter and social media account. Supports local shopping! Download free from the App Store and Google Play. 535 co-ops in 45 states that participate in this program. Free for businesses to participate.
  - Questions
    - Ashley Kincaid - [akincaid@peoplesenergy.coop](mailto:akincaid@peoplesenergy.coop) / 507-367-7054

## 6. Shop Local Friday

- Poll results - theme was offered to put SLF monthly announcements on digital signage.
- June 3rd - Looking at coupling shop local friday with an event during the hwy 57 process
- Reminder of program changes.
- Looking for businesses who would like to do a ribbon cutting and welcome them to the community.

## 7. City Update

- Christmas lights and banners are ongoing projects that we can help support his year.
- Hwy 57 project has been let out for bids (7 million to 8 and a half million) supply chain issues, hopeful the project gets completed this year
- Early St. Patrick's Day Downtown Task Force Event

## 8. School Update - Jenny Carrier & Jami Schwickerath

- What's Going On? Songs from the Vietnam War Era, April 2nd @ 7pm. Fundraiser for Disabled American Veterans. The more tickets sold the more we can give back! Get your tickets at [www.komet-tickets.com](http://www.komet-tickets.com)
- Easter Extravaganza - April 7th doors open at 5:45pm and Egg Hunt at 6:30pm @ K-M Community Education/Elementary School. FREE event!
- K-M Boys Basketball team is moving on in the section beating #5 Red Wing last night in a great game.
- The Robotics team competed in Duluth this last weekend and took 14th.
- CTE classes at K-M Schools - getting a new mill to get more kids in there. Immersive experiences, May is focused on Health Care.
- High school STEM forward recognition - not just college based with employers on site. May 11th, contact Jami if you'd like to be a business present at the event.

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## 9. Other Announcements

- Angie shared the feedback we received for speakers. If you are interested in hearing more about something please send Angie an email. Sponsored lunches, we need someone to sponsor for April or on. Contact Angie and let her know and she can help you out. Also looking for business after hours, contact Jennifer if you are interested in hosting.
- Dan shared more information about the Mainstreet initiative. Encouraging businesses and families to try it out. Not a chamber official event but it's a downtown event. Moving forward we can look into it being a Chamber event.
- Hubbell House Update - Looking at opening the first week of May (update foyer, bathrooms, kitchen, tables and chairs, bar, etc.) The hope was to open April 1st but it will be closer to May 1st.

## 10. Adjournment



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