

Washburn Life
(Washburn Area Improvement Association)
(Official)
Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2025

Location: Washburn City Hall

Board Members Present: Donna Sommer/ Rhonda Johnson/ Mark Lelm/ Staci Berube/ Richard Perkerewicz

Board Members Absent: Rashel Crowell (e)/ Richard Perkerewicz (e)

Others Present: Ryan Botner

Meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm by President Donna Sommer.

- 1) **Secretary Report:** Minutes from the February 11th meeting. (Mark made a motion to approve the minutes as written, 2nd by Staci) **Approved.**
- 2) **Treasurer's Report:** Staci reviewed the financial report as of March 11th. (Mark made a motion to approve the financial report as presented, 2nd by Richard) **Approved.**
- 3) **Old Business:**
 - a) **Office Space:** Donna gave an update on finding office space for Rhonda (Community Coordinator). Donna met with the MCHS Museum board. The museum is willing to provide office space with a rental fee. Discussion.

Staci made a motion to pay the MCHS \$100 per month for the office space. 2nd by Richard. **Approved.**

Mark made a motion to have the rental fee retroactive to Feb 1, 2025. 2nd by Richard. **Approved.**
 - b) **Membership Letters (2025):** Staci gave an update on the number of memberships that have been received as of March 11th (34 members). Discussion.
 - c) **Board Position Appointment Vacancy:** Ryan Botner said he is interested in one of the open positions. The executive board will meet after today's meeting to discuss the position. Discussion.
 - d) **Taste of Washburn Update:** Rhonda gave an update on the event so far. (18 businesses signed up as of March 11). Rhonda also has placed 2 ads/1 banner in the Leader News & Xtra for the event (\$275). Discussion.
- 4) **New Business:**
 - a) **ND Ethanol Producers Association Membership:** Donna went over the membership application. Discussion. The board declined to become a member.
 - b) **B.A.N.D. Donation Request:** Donna went over the donation letter of request for the 33rd Annual Missouri River Bluegrass Festival at the Cross Ranch State Park. Discussion.
Staci made a motion to donate \$200 to donate to B.A.N.D. 2nd by Mark. **Approved.**

- c) **Washburn Life Directors/Officers Insurance Policy:** Donna and Staci went over the policy for liability for directors/officers.

Mark made a motion to renew our insurance through Western Frontier. 2nd by Richard.

Approved.

- d) **Washburn Life Website:** Donna and Rhonda talked about the Washburn Life website. Rhonda posted a poll on Facebook asking about the public use of the site. The city is willing to put any information the board wants on their website under "Economic Profile". Discussion.

Richard made a motion to "dissolve" the website and partner with the City of Washburn. 2nd Staci. **Approved.**

- e) **An Action to Promote & Highlight Members:** Discussion on ideas on how to get members of Washburn Life, and what they will get in exchange for their membership. Tabled.

- f) **Board Retreat:** Donna led the discussion on having a board retreat. Donna had spoken to Melinda Padilla Lynch to be a facilitator for the retreat. A possible date is April 30th at the Washburn Ambulance Bay (4:30-7:30pm).

- g) **Storefront Grant Request (Chase Drug):** Donna went over the storefront grant from Deb Beck (Chase Drug). Discussion.

Richard made a motion to fund the grant (\$10,000) to Chase Drug for storefront improvements. 2nd by Mark. **Approved.**

- h) **Billboards along Hwy 83:** Mark brought up the 2 billboards along Hwy 83 that need repaired and the possibility of using the billboards to advertise downtown businesses.

- i) **Riverside Park (Lights):** Mark mentioned that the solar lighting needs to be updated/repaired.

5). **Coordinator Report:** Rhonda gave an update on what she has been doing the past month. She attended the ND Rural Planning Symposium (Feb), community meetings (Park, Library & City Commission, Special Assessment). She also mentioned other events/updates happening in Washburn.

Next Meeting: May 13th at 12 pm at **Washburn City Hall**

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm by President Donna Sommer.

Rhonda Johnson
Community Coordinator

Minutes submitted 3/13/2025.
Minutes approved 4/8/2025.