

Minutes from EBA meeting held December 21, 2023

Meeting called to order at 8:00 am by Jaimie McFarlin, President.

9 members in attendance, including 4(5) Board members:

Jaimie McFarlin (Store Next Door/ Etc. Shop), Erin Ziegenhorn (CEFCU), Cindy O'Neill (Eureka Public Library), Amber Harmon (GSB), Tiffany Handrich (Third Stitch), Beth Roberts (GSB), Beth Miller (Historical Society), Linda Logan (City of Eureka), Nancy Aldridge (Kiwanis)

November minutes– motion to approve by Nancy Aldridge, seconded by Beth Miller.

Treasurer report: *(can refer to Treasurer's account detail sheet-attached)*

Statements ending 11/30/23:

Ending balances-

General Fund: \$7,443.89

New Gift Checks: \$18,513.66 -\$8,145.00 in gift checks sold (credit), \$1,155.00 in debits (11+ businesses)

Old Gift Checks: \$10,795.74- no change

Multiple businesses saw gift checks in November and will likely be seeing more in December and January. **Please go over instructions for accepting gift checks with your employees. Make sure they put your business name in the pay to the order of line and treat the checks like cash-if the amount is \$15 and they have a check for \$20, give the customer \$5 back.** If you have questions, please contact us. Also make sure your employees are stamping or you are signing the back for the business. This and writing the business in the pay to the order spot helps us track the checks to make sure they are being used for goods and services in our community.

All gift checks should be being used as payment to the business for goods and services. Deposits to organizations not selling anything (goods and services) or to personal accounts are not allowed. They can be used for membership fees but cannot be purchased or used for anything other than fees, goods and services. If you have questions, please ask. We want this program to be used to help our local economy and

businesses. We will add a statement indicating checks are not to be cashed/direct deposited to new checks printed in 2024.

Financial Report approval motioned by: Beth Miller; second by Nancy Aldridge.

Guest Speaker-

No one this month

Committee Reports:

We are looking for Committee heads and members for events. Please help us continue bringing these great events to Eureka!

Spring Market Day: Father's Day weekend, 3rd Saturday in June

4th of July parade: morning of the 4th

Central IL BBQ Throwdown- July

Experience Eureka: likely first Friday in September

Fall Pumpkin Giveaway- something we'd still like to get off the ground for future years/could be seeds in the spring with a pumpkin judging contest and/or partnering with a local pumpkin farmer for a giveaway. Since, of course, we used to be the Pumpkin Capital of the World 😊

Holiday Stroll/Small Business Saturday: held on Saturday November 25th, another beautiful day in Eureka. We had a great turnout for Santa and Mrs. Claus and carriage rides. Great start to the Christmas holiday in Eureka. There were \$7,800 worth of gift checks purchased.

Talked about a few ideas for next year/future years in Board meeting...details coming as things get sorted out. The Events Committee has two tall heaters we could borrow.

New Business Committee-working on welcoming a few new businesses and doing a "ribbon cutting"/welcome! We would love to be apart of anniversaries, milestones, etc. as well.

Historical Society celebration was held on November 28th. We were able to celebrate with them and learn some new things about Eureka. Check them out!

We need Committee members. If you have ideas, thoughts, criticism, anything- please consider coming to meetings and being a part of a committee. Talk to us and help us with events and help us grow what we have in Eureka.

New Business:

We will be hosting An Evening with EBA on Thursday January 25th at the Crate at the Cannery, 5-7 pm. This will be a time to meet the Board members and your fellow EBA members. We will have our membership drive in full swing, so you can bring anyone who might be interested in joining EBA. If you renew your business membership that night, you will be entered into a drawing. Beth Roberts will assist Jaimie in planning the event. There will be no January 8 am meeting.

Thank you to Amber Harmon for serving on the EBA Board now for several years. She will be stepping down as she embarks on a new life journey out of the country. Please join us in thanking Amber for her hard work with EBA!

The 2024 Board was voted on. President – Jaimie McFarlin; Vice President – Tiffany Handrich; Secretary – Erin Ziegenhorn; Treasurer – Cindy O’Neill. Motion to accept board: Amber Harmon, seconded by Beth Roberts. Thank you to Tiffany Handrich for stepping into Amber’s position! We are excited for her to join us in the coming year.

If you have a personal connection with a new or existing business who is not a member, please invite them to join. 2024 membership will be coming out shortly via email.

There was a general discussion of 2024 projects including creating a substitute for the Eureka Community Guide, magnets, and digital maps.

Business updates:

Erin (CEFCU)-

Nothing to update from CEFCU, but wanted to mention the **Eureka First Responders Santa parade** on Dec 17th - In conjunction with the Eureka Police Department and the Eureka Goodfield Fire Protection District, I want to thank everyone for coming out and watching the parade. Our first annual Santa parade was a hit! I have heard great comments about the parade and we are already thinking about next year. Thank you for showing up and helping us spread Christmas cheer!

Tiffany Handrich of Third Stitch launched an innovative 12 Days of Business promotion on Facebook with daily giveaways.

Eureka Public Library is going fine-free on books, magazines, movies, and audiobooks starting January 3.

Et Cetera/Store Next Door will be closed over the holidays, and they had great success with being open on Friday nights in December.

Kiwanis: Had a great turnout for their Santa's workshop with over 100 kids. Key Club members responded to 40 letters to Santa. Kiwanis are accepting donations of penguin-related items to support the Eastlight Theater (they are creating 40 silent auction baskets) and their Lion King Jr production in January.

Goodfield State Bank: Interest rates may be dropping; consider CDs.

Historical Society: they had a lovely 50th anniversary party. They are looking for a picture of the original Davenport home (formerly located on the Davenport School grounds).

City of Eureka: Chuck Germann Park will be dedicated on December 22nd. Work on the Charters of Freedom memorial will resume in the spring.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 am. Motioned by Linda Logan and seconded by Beth Miller.