

General Meeting Minutes

Notes created on May 7, 2025 at 12:16 PM by Tara Jones

Meeting Start

- Meeting called to order at 12:16.
- Motion to approve previous meeting minutes: Laura motioned, Toni seconded.
- Natasha gave the treasurer's report: Balance of \$17,277.05 at the end of April.
- School attendance was absent due to being busy.

Old Business: Big Kansas Road Trip Report

- Approximately 200 people attended on Friday and Saturday.
- The Chamber raised \$495 from tourism revenue.
- Thanks to board members, Laura, and the museum for their help.

Feedback on Big Kansas Road Trip

- Laura: "It was good for business because 188 people came into the shop to get a map to know where the quilts were...great sales day."
- One lady said the airing of the quilts was her favorite part.
- Laura thanked the community for increasing the number of addresses from 3 to 21.
- 82 people signed the guest book at the museum but more attended.
- Over \$200 was collected in the donation box at the Museum.
- The Kansas Sampler Foundation picked Morton County.
- Encouraged members to visit county attractions and spend money.

- Visitors from as far as Indiana and Alaska
- Visitors donated around \$400 to the church in Richfield.

- The Big Kansas Road Trip is what the Kansas Sampler Festival has become.
- A survey will be sent to the community to gather feedback.
- A debrief with the Kansas Sampler Foundation is scheduled for next week.
- FFA and high school art students raised \$350 selling pie at the fairgrounds.
- The money raised will go back to their organizations.

Pitch Your Porch

- Pitch Your Porch is a business competition similar to YEC.
 - Businesses can pitch renovation ideas for their storefronts (must be permanent).
- \$15,000 in prize money will be divided between first, second, and third place.
- A workshop will be held on Tuesday the 13th from 3 to 5 in the library for those who want to compete.
 - Natasha and Alexis will be there to go through business plans and answer questions any business might have,
 - The competition date is the 19th.

New Business

- The chamber has new swag with a new design by local Dani Rhodes. The design says, "The dust settles. But we don't. Morton County, Kansas." Available items include T-shirts, koozies (talls and shorts), and stickers. Stickers feature the eight-mile corner, windmill, and point of rocks.
- Items are available for purchase after the meeting.
 - T-shirts are \$25, and koozies and stickers are \$5 each.
- Proceeds will go towards chamber fundraising.

Business Appreciation

- The lunch was free due to National Small Business Week.
- Next month is National Business Appreciation Month, and something special will be done for

businesses.

- The Senior Center is currently being spotlighted.
 - Alexis and Natasha visited one of their lunches to discuss services and how the chamber can help.
- There is a flyer for the Senior Expo available.

Board Positions

- There are two vacant board positions.
- Letters of interest are being accepted until May 30th.
 - They can be emailed to the Chamber Gmail or dropped off at Pate Agency or the Civic Center.

Fourth of July

- The Fourth of July is a major event, and "we need all hands on deck."

Businesses that normally participate should reach out to confirm their plans.

Sponsors and volunteers are needed. Those interested in getting involved or with specific ideas should contact the chamber.

Morton Coalition Events - Leslie Kraich

- Turn mental health awareness into action. Elkhart, Thursday, May 15th, starts at 7:00 PM. Starting at the 988 kiosk this year, walk around Whistle Stop Park. Kiosk location: 208 Washington (old bank ATM). Walk down the sidewalk.

Senior Center's senior day May 22. Theme: Flip the Script. Flip the language/talk.

Lost Teen Summit

- Suicide survivors summit, May 17th, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Amarillo College, west campus, lecture hall. Cost: \$25. Contact for the link. Follow Community Coalition and Chamber on Facebook and Instagram. Coalition often has News articles in the paper.

Amy Brillhart

- Kansas road trip was awesome. Cat Tales is gearing up for Mothers Day.

Forrest Cornwell

Sports camp is June 23rd-27th. Ages 4 to 12. Registration has already begun.

Library Events

- Story time is finished for the semester. Book rummage sale starting next week. Proceeds go to the summer reading program. Free will donation.
- Summer reading: first Tuesday in June. Will give them little bags. Crafts: Stakes for your yard.
- Different programs, Crystal coming in, hoping to have more come in.

SENIOR CENTER.

- Sherry reported a good turnout at the senior center for the beginning of the road trip.
- Quilts helped to bring people there
 - Fay stopped by.
 - Ruby and Melvin Bultman attended.
- Ladies Night In:
 - This Friday night, a program with Joyce Meyers online.
 - All ladies are invited.
 - It's a pre-Mother's Day event at 6:30, bring snacks.
- Expo:
 - Coming along nicely, contact Iris to set up a booth or help.
 - Good speakers lined up.
 - Knights of Columbus and Seaboard are bringing a free will donation lunch. • Focus is on seniors and adults, but everyone is welcome.

Becky (Museum)

- Enjoyed talking to everyone that came in
- New dust bowl display received positive feedback.
 - People can walk into the house and see the dirt coming from outside.
 - Five State bike run this Saturday.
 - Expecting 600-900 people to come through the museum. Homemade cookies are preferred. Walmart won't let Becky pre-order cookies anymore.

Darren from Garnand Funeral Home

- Pleased to have served the Elkhart community for the last 23 years.

Mindy

- Trail ride served about 70 people.
- Highway cleanup had 12 participants.
- Lions Club golf tournament this weekend.
 - Two-person scramble, tee off at 10:00 AM.
 - Lunch and desserts will be served: "brisket sandwiches and homemade desserts."

Nazarene Church

- Vacation Bible school on Wednesday nights in June.
- Ladies golf on Tuesday nights at 6:00 PM.
- Couples golf nights starting at the end of the month, advertised on the Ladies Golf association page and Trader.

Mindy's Bees

- Seven hives, with three new queens coming next week.

- Speaker is willing to talk about honeybees.
- Speaker is going to load them up and take them to the second graders this Friday.

Sew Loved Shop Update

- Saturday was an incredible financial blessing.
- Kansas Nebraska shop hop is still going on.
- Gave away several prizes, like a puzzle.
- Several people visited the shop from out of town.

Health Department

- Measles outbreak is under control.
 - No new cases locally.
 - One new case in Wichita/Sedgwick County.
- Mica got certified for community health worker course.
- Mica is fixing to take phlebotomy class and CMA class.

Boaldins

- Commendation for those involved in last weekend's activities.
- Tim Hardy did a good job with banners and parking spots.
- Speaker saw a lot of people at pointed rocks and landmarks on grassland.

Dream First Bank

- Tomorrow is National Have a Coke Day, handing out free Cokes to customers.
- Free gift for opening a new account is a duffel bag.

Morton County Clinic

- Dr. Esparza: "We are open and accepting new patients."

Morton County Clinic Updates

- Clinic is open from 8:00 until 4:30 with doctors available.
- The clinic will have a booth at the Senior Expo on the 22nd from 8 to 4, focusing on Medicaid, Medicare, and annual wellness Medicare visits, which is a "free program, it's covered by Medicare."
- May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and the clinic has a mental health provider specializing in treating disorders like depression, mood, anxiety, and PTSD.
- June is Men's Health Month, focusing on prostate cancer screening, colon cancer screening, and other men's health risks. July will focus on household safety, including fireworks, pool, and yard safety.

TBK Updates

- Referral program: Refer someone in, you get \$50, they get \$50.
- Getting ready to celebrate teacher, doctor, and nurse appreciation.

Morton County Spring Show

- Morton County Spring show is this weekend.
- Brochures available for county-wide information on where to shop, eat, and stay, including phone numbers for the chamber and schools.
- T-shirts, koozies, and stickers are available.
- Flyers for different events are available.

Meeting Adjournment • Motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 by Leslie, seconded by Becky.

Attendance 24

Alexis O'Hair, Natasha Eagan, Tara Jones

Laura Martin- Sew Loved

Marla Houtz, Mica Nave - Morton County Health department

Mindy Dourherty - Mindy's Bees, State Farm, and Lions Club

Audra Gonzalez CNO , Jennifer Pearlstein, Dr. Esparza - Morton Co Hospital/Clinic

Kayla Espinoza, Christie Weeder - TBK Bank

Toni Bressler - Library

Dusty and Amy Brillhart - Cat tales EMS

Becky Ellis - Museum

Ethan Harder - Judge

Darrin Figgins - Garnand Funeral Home

Radleigh Hurn - Dream First Bank

Kent and Diane Boaldin - Boaldin Electric

Leslie Kriech - Community Coalition

Pastor Forrest - Church of God

Sheri Butler - Forest Service and Senior Center