



Hardin Valley Business and Community Alliance (HVBCA)

Wednesday, January 20, 12:00 noon, Virtual

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome – Sage Kohler

In attendance: Sage Kohler, Kim Frazier, Rob Speas, Alexa Sponcia, John Gargis, King University, Cara Ford, Eric Wolburg/Regions, Terry Hill, Betsy Henderson, Denise Douglas, Jane Jolley, Brook Mast, Larsen Jay, Paul Rome, Alisa Pruet, Derek Griz, Rhonda Smithson

II. Introductions-

Sage Kohler – State Farm Agent and community partner

Kim Frazier – founder and director of Hardin Valley Planning Advocates, Community Outreach for Knox County Planning Alliance – advocate for intentional growth with coordinated infrastructure – passion for connected people and building relationships

Alexa Sponcia – Hard Knox Pizza owner; love of community, active & engaged community partner, love of schools

Terry Hill – District 6 County Commissioner

Cara Ford & Charlene Wagoner – Farragut Press: launching new HV publication

Rob Speas – Principal Hardin Valley Academy

John Gargis – Valley Church Pastor currently meeting at HVA on Sundays 5pm

Lauren with King University: geared towards adult learning meeting one night per week

Eric Wolburg – Regions Bank

Betsy Henderson – District 6 School Board Representative, former PTO President, passion for partnering schools with businesses

Jane Jolley – Community Engagement with Mayor Glenn Jacobs office

Denise Douglas – UPS owner in HV, community partner

Larsen Jay – At Large County Commissioner

Rhonda Smithson – Community Engagement Coordinator with Mayor Glenn Jacobs

Derek Griz – Immanuel Church office next to Mikata and community center on Solway

Alisa Pruet – investor in Keller Williams Farragut / HV office

Brook Mast – Hard Knox affiliate

III. Political Updates – Terry Hill, Larsen Jay

Terry Hill – former school board represent District 6, privileged to serve as county commissioner for 5 months now, HV is experiencing unprecedented growth and there are many folks advocating to meet the needs for this area, Jim Snowden in Engineering is a great support, redistricting required by law every 10 years upon completion of census – district 6 may see some shifts in our boundaries, pandemic has consumed much of the county's time and attention – encouraged everyone to be kind and respectful of everyone's position

Larsen Jay – road map updates to provided via email

IV. Education Updates –

Betsy Henderson – thanks to Terry Hill for her previous work as school board rep, elected in Nov and sworn in during December, the schools are doing an amazing job navigating the pandemic, 5000 students back to in person learning, closing schools on an individual basis based on science and data, holiday surge has been minimal, state level session is back in session focused on education and literacy and holding the schools harmless

Rob Speas – rocking and rolling in HV, looking towards the next school year, focusing on moving forward and bettering the experience for our students, freshmen are looking at pathways and choosing an academy based on their interests and skill sets – taking 3 classes within their focus area, post secondary goals for students, business partners to create real life experiences for students

V. Meeting Discussion

a. Bylaws – Sage presented proposed bylaws and asked for input. Travis Thompson, Denise Douglas, Teresa Longworth, Dawn Walsh – thanks for your assistance. These are general bylaws as a starting point. Meetings will follow the majority rules, less formal model. Sage called for a vote on bylaws – all in favor – bylaws pass.

b. Board Members Ballot

Sage announced volunteers interested in serving.

President – Sage Kohler, engaged community partner, experience with founding the successful Powell Business group

Vice President – Rob Speas, excited about a unified body in the community, strengthen relationships, one community initiative, bringing forth great speakers

Secretary - Kim Frazier, passion for community and building relationships

Treasurer- Eric Wolburg, tracking finances, improving plans and making them realistic and put things into practice and reality

c. Membership dues \$50 / annual membership, Sage asked for discussion, Rob Speas & Kim Frazier support, Lauren supports \$50 due to the current economy, Terry Hill supports starting at \$50 to get our feet wet and build our resources, John Gargis asked if \$50 will cover cost, Sage responded that 40 members paying \$50 should cover initial costs: advertising, promotional materials, Denise Douglas suggested sponsoring promotional materials and committed the UPS support, discussion of founding board members sponsorship, Sage called for vote – all in favor - \$50/year membership fee pass.

d. Committees

i. Program – need members to volunteer

ii. Membership – need members to volunteer

iii. Communication- need members to volunteer

iv. Events – need members to volunteer

e. Promotional Materials- Sage presented draft flyer and asked for input, Sage will email draft out to members

f. Other Items

VI. Guest Speaker – Cara Ford & Charlene Wagoner with the Farragut Press: Hardin Valley Living

Target date is June 28, tabloid style paper distributed via mail to 4700 residencies, a place to advertise, looking for community partners, will provide info and highlight the community, will begin quarterly and move into a monthly publication as it grows, please give them a call to get involved, working with Kim Frazier to get connected, shout out to King College, excited to see HV grow, so thrilled to launch in the HV community and help with outreach, exclusive to HV. Sage asked how the paper will be sectioned – Cara described the paper as future sectioned publication (food, education, fitness, nutrition, activities, special interests, sports, tips, growth, business, kids corner – something for everyone).

VII. Closing – business spotlight each month- next month Hard Knox Pizza

-Lauren reminded everyone that this zoom subscription ends in April and a decision will need to be made.

-next meeting February 17

