**Westerville Area Chamber office 99 Commerce Park Dr. 43082**

**Tuesday, January 9, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

1. Janet Welcomed the committee and guests- Everyone Introduced themselves

2. Members of teams

* No updates shared with Healthcare or Taxation/Worker’s Comp. initiatives
* Workforce: WorkWISE- Janet noted the first WorkWISE meeting of the year is next week. The Collective has Steve Dakin, Dir. of the newly created office by the Governor, Workforce & Education scheduled to attend the meeting. Additionally, the collective will review their meeting cadence and priorities for the year. The teacher/guidance counselor externship is scheduled for a teacher workday, April 8 which is also the day of the Solar Eclipse. Discussion occurred about the solar eclipse and what the community is planning for a watch party in the afternoon April 8.

3. Welcome newly elected City Council Members: each council member introduced themselves and noted what they hoped to accomplish in the next four years.

* Jeff Washburn- provided his background including living in Westerville since 1969. He has twin boys in our school system. He believes a lot is going well in the district. He is looking forward to learning more about the city operations.
* David Grimes summarized his background, noting he is a teacher at Blendon Middle School and his wife lives uptown. He too believes all is going well in our city. He would like to see affordable/workforce housing available in the community. He said he knows he has a lot to learn about City Operations and he is looking forward to learning.
* Ken Wright (Ken was re-elected to council) The council congratulated Ken for being recently elected as Mayor for the next two years. He shared his story when he moved to Westerville, he and his family’s observations of the community accepting people of color, and how his daughter’s participation in Leadership Today helped his family give Westerville a second chance. Ken participated in Leadership Westerville, Police Academy and other community awareness programs which led him to run for City Council. Housing is an area of focus for Ken.
* Discussion continued about ways the business community could engage with them and to assure

Line of communication remains open.

4. Newly elected Board of Education Members. Louise Valentine contacted the office this morning to let us know she could not attend. Jen Aultman did not respond to our invitation.

5. Future Meeting Topics- What topic is of interest to you?

* Streamlining of City Planning and Zoning
* City Discussion about levies that are existing and expiring in near future
* JCR Presentation on Streamlining of Ohio’s Administrative Code
* <https://cutredtape.ohio.gov/> – to submit suggestions for rule removal

Council was reminded: **Tues., Jan. 23** ‘*Navigating Multigenerational Workforce to Achieve Best Outcomes’,*  workshop with Dr. Kozar 10:00 AM; *Annual Meeting, Awards, & Innovation Showcase Luncheon* 11:30 AM

**Adjourn:**

***Members- Highlighted are those that attended the meeting***: Jeff Akers, Amy Balster, Rita Bassiet, Bill Bishop, Polly Clavijo, Dr. Joseph Clark, Mary Collins, Ashley Fellers, Matthew Fisher, Bob Gibson, Graham Guthrie, Patrick Harris, Laura Hartman, Paul Hammer, Andrew Hardy, Gene Hollins, Tamara Howard, Charlene Kott, Brandon Lawson, Jeannie Mok, Michael McGreevy, Bryan Peluso, Adam Price, Dina Shultz, Michael Swartz. Staff member: Janet Tressler-Davis   Guests: Mark Smolik, Tanya Salyers (representing COTA in Partick’s absence) and newly elected City Council Members

**Upcoming meetings*:*** Feb. 7, March 7, April 4 3:30PM

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| ***Chamber mission*** | To enhance the business climate and quality of life in our community. |
| ***Committee mission*** | We are business advocates, collaborating with public officials to support and/or establish legislation, regulations and policies that represent our members’ top concerns and enable businesses to thrive and compete locally, nationally, and internationally.  We further serve members’ interests by striving to generate revenue for the Chamber and the committee itself so that we may provide related educational programs and materials as well as information about government actions impacting business. |
| ***Member concerns*** | **Workforce Training | Business Regulations | Healthcare** |

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**Team Captains for Work Groups:**

Access to Workforce-Gene Hollins Healthcare – Bill Bishop/Michael Swartz

Taxation-Charlene Kott Business Regulation – Matthew Fisher