

**Kasson Chamber of Commerce**  
**September 2023 General Membership Meeting Agenda**

September 13, 2023  
Kasson City Hall  
12:00-1:00 PM (Lunch at 11:30 AM)

*Thank you K-M Lions Club for sponsoring today's lunch!*

1. Introductions - 31 members present
2. Kasson Parks and Rec - Ben
  - a. Handicap accessible swing in one of the parks
  - b. Probably North Park
  - c. Pricing is a concern \$4,000 to \$34,000 for one of the swings plus installation
  - d. Contact info: 634-6010 [parknrec@cityofkasson.com](mailto:parknrec@cityofkasson.com)

Welcome to our new Chamber Members!

- Carriage House Animal Hospital
  - EmpowerYou Wellness
3. Minutes - Approved by all members
  4. Treasurer Report -
    - a. 81 paid memberships
    - b. 99 total - membership drive hoping to hit 100
    - c. \$776.96 donation to scholarship fund from Blngo
    - d. A few payments were made last month.
  5. Speakers:
    - a. Creative Stars Academy – Jill Mertens: What we do
      1. 2014 expanded
      2. 2018 first center in Rochester opened 95 capacity
      3. Kasson Center is open max capacity is 115/30-40 right now (we have space and capacity)
      4. 6wks-Prek M-F 6am-6pm
      5. Heart for rural communities, faith based
    - b. NextEra Energy Resources – Danell Herzig: Dodge Wind Energy Project Update
      1. Richard is here, Danell wasn't able to make it out to MN today
      2. Developer for the Dodge County Wind project
      3. Public utilities commission hearing December 23rd final hearing with the final decision sometime in March
      4. Hoping to move the project forward after that
  6. Oktoberfest – Planning Committee Update
    - a. Sept. 30th
    - b. Registration pages and poster are here - take one and follow the event page on FB
    - c. New this year: llamas, beer & rootbeer yoga, beer mile, sauerkraut eating contest, scavenger hunt, beer stein holding, clogging, keg rolling, tire flipping, root beer floats, bounce house
    - d. Next planning meeting Sept 20 at Home Federal @ 2pm
  7. President Report
    - a. After Hours – Next After Hours will be Thursday 9/21 at Riverside Park in Mantorville hosted by MBT Bank. The drawing is up to \$100.
    - b. Thanks everyone that joined us for the first Annual Kasson Chamber Golf Outing! We had 10 teams participate and are excited to expand it into the Kasson Ambassador Scholarship Fundraiser Chamber Golf Tournament next year.

- c. Main Street Banners – Kasson City Council approved cost sharing with Chamber for banners, so these have been ordered for production.
  - d. Board Workshop – Introduction of Pillars
  - e. Rural Entrepreneurship Venture grant – Kasson was selected as a finalist. The EDA board was interviewed by the grant team on 9/5 and will announce grant recipients on 9/26.
  - f. If you have ideas or suggestions for 2023 goals, events or priorities – let me know!
8. City Update
- a. Ian - working on an application for the rural entrepreneurship program
  - b. 3 year program working with the EDA and your communities
  - c. Long process and made it to the last step
  - d. Council meeting tonight discussion on the preliminary budget 2024
9. School Update
- a. Ashley Kaplan - great start to the school year
  - b. Thank you to the businesses who donated to our new staff welcome bags we had about 35 new staff
  - c. Test scores are public now and we had some outstanding results
  - d. Mark your calendars for January 5th second ever internship fair
  - e. Immersion days are set up so feel free to reach out to Jen Kujath if you are interested in being there. We need more business support for grades K-5!
10. Other Announcements
- a. Bell Ringing time - sign up with Tanya Young, lots of different slots! 316-390-5368
  - b. Coming Up
    - 1. Oct. 11 hosted by SEMCAC
    - 2. Nov 8 hosted by KM Schools and Taher Food Service
    - 3. Dec 13 8:30-9:30 AM at Trail Creek Coffee sponsored by Home Federal
  - c. Chamber Sponsored Events coming up!
    - 1. ECFE Transportation Fair - September 19th
    - 2. Community Halloween Trick or Treat - October 29th
    - 3. K-M Care & Share - November 14th

## 11. Adjournment

Mission: To promote, strengthen, and support the Kasson business community.