

**Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes
March 3, 2016 Regular Monthly Meeting
Cut Bank Chamber Office – Noon**

Directors Present: Jeff Billman, Calcie DeZort, Ryan Eney, Adrienne Fritz, LeAnne Kavanagh, Juanita Meeks, Pat Murphy, Sissy Nygaard, Matt Waller.

Executive Director: Amy Overstreet

Directors Absent: Pete Hetherington (Unexcused); Steven Hjartarson (Excused).

Guests Attending: Don Grubb, Cut Bank City Council.

Regular Business

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Billman. The minutes from the Feb. 24 annual meeting were presented for approval. Juanita moved to accept the minutes as corrected and Calcie seconded the motion. Being no further discussion, the minutes were approved as emailed.

The financial reports from February 2016 were reviewed. See attached.

Balances were reported as follows: \$12,004.70 Chamber Checking Account; \$26,725.05 Economic Development Checking Account; \$4,817.12, Gift Certificate Account; \$7,418.99 Buckle Account; Lewis and Clark Committee-\$ 2,735.14 (checking) and \$16,188.49 (money market).

Amy provided some additional information regarding the \$364.95 expense at Michael's, which was for framing prints for the Chamber and upcoming auctions and gifts for Citizen and Workhorse of the Year. She also reported the lease with the new renters (Cut Bank Baptist Church) has been signed and the utilities will be put in their name.

Pat moved the financial report be accepted with Adrienne seconding the motion and all voting in favor of the motion.

Old Business

Committee updates

Economic Development: Remediation and testing of the Public Drug building has been completed and the final payments and reimbursements will be forthcoming. Once that portion is done, bids can go out for the 38 upper level windows. Jeff also reported he has a lead on a possible jewelry store from the Flathead Valley area that may be interested in relocating to the Myhre Jewelry building.

Stage Cover: Sissy is still working with City officials on the stage cover project and some ideas were tossed around for possible fundraisers. Councilman Don Grubb reported the city's engineer is completing the "high wind load" information needed. Cut Bank Revitalization Society will be asked by Juanita if they are interested in closing out their funds with a donation to the stage cover project. Amy will look into possible grants from Montana Main Street.

(It was noted during the discussion that a portion of the proceeds from the banquet would go to the stage cover...but in looking at the Feb. 3 minutes the discussion was for a portion to go to replacing the damaged snowflake decorations.)

Membership: LeAnne reported membership was at 164 as of the meeting, which is two more than last year at this time but still 36 short of the goal of 200 members. The challenge was extended to the April meeting. Amy will hit the phones and attempt to call 20 people per day for a week on the "potential list" and board members were strongly encouraged to fulfill their commitment of recruiting or renewing five members. It was also discussed about adding a family membership level for \$50 next year.

Banquet: Jeff and Amy updated the board on the banquet, which is set Saturday, April 23 and will feature the Bop-a-Dips. Amy said letters went out to possible event sponsors. Cost will be \$750 and will include a reserved table and listing on all advertisements and banners. It was decided to bag the live auction items and Jeff will look at using the \$1,000 Whirlpool credit he

has received to auction off two Traeger grills instead. Amy will call and try and get a Harley Davidson motorcycle donated for the "Hog Wild" pig roast theme. She has received two nominations for Citizen of the Year so far. The board will narrow the nominees to three at the April meeting and the Banquet Committee will make the final selection.

New Business

Resignation of Pete Hetherington: On the motion of Juanita and second by Pat the board accepted the resignation of director Pete Hetherington.

Filling Director Vacancy: Several names were discussed as possible replacements for Pete's position on the board. After much discussion it was decided to contact Cherie Taylor at NRMCM to see if the hospital would like to have a seat on the board. If they choose to pass, then Jeff will contact Ross Thayer at CHS.

Cut Bank Photo Contest: Amy said the second annual photo contest will be announced this week. Photos will be used on the Chamber website and in the 2016 Discover Cut Bank publication, as well as on the Facebook page. There are two categories: Scenic and People at Cut Bank events/locations. The top four photos in each category will earn the photographer a \$50 Chamber gift certificate.

Shakespeare in the Parks: Juanita announced this year's event will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 3, and she has reserved the City Park and Civic Center, in case of bad weather. Don will ask the city to waive the \$5 fee for having access to water/electricity in the park. The play will either be *Comedy of Errors* or *Henry VIII*.

Lewis and Clark Festival: Sissy said the Lewis and Clark Festival Committee is gearing up and will hold its first meeting on March 8. They are working on securing the bands/music and have contacted the CBEFAA to see if they are interested in sponsoring another golf tournament on Friday in conjunction with the Festival, which will once again include popular events such as the chili cook-off and car show.

Reminders

- The March Chamber Up will be hosted by Leavitt Insurance Group on March 29 from 5:30-7 p.m. with Glacier Care Center scheduled to hold the April Chamber Up on April 12.
- Deadline for Photo Contest submissions is March 20.
- Deadline for Citizen of the Year nominations is April 1.
- Next Chamber board meeting is April 6.

Comments

Amy informed the board she will be attending the Glacier Country board training on March 8 in Polson. Pat said Burke McCormick is ready to begin work on the Cut Bank Trails project and is looking for volunteer labor for the section running from Bruch's to Fultz's. The metal sign trail marker made by Katie McCormick was on display at the Chamber office. Amy added there is currently \$36,000 available for the coulee portion of the trail.

The meeting was adjourned.

LeAnne Kavanagh
Secretary/Director