**Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes**

**May 8th, 2019, Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Cut Bank Chamber Office – Noon**

**Directors Present:** Brandon Greco, Ric Beals, Stephanie Eney, Bryan Simons, Nicole Altenburg, Nate Kavanagh, Calcie Stubbs, Jessica Waldner, Don Grubb, Kristi Rowell

**Executive Director:** Amy Overstreet

**Directors Absent:** JR Meyers (Excused)

**Bookkeeper:** Todd Eney (Not Present)

**Office Assistant:** Erin Kittson (Not Present)

**Guests Attending:** Juanita Meeks & Mikayla Garcia (Dye Tavary & Judge)

**Regular Business:** The meeting was called to order by President Ric Beals. The minutes from the April 3rd meeting were presented for approval. Nicole Altenburg made the motion to approve and accept the minutes with Calcie Stubbs seconding the motion. Being no further discussion, the minutes were approved. Stephanie Eney wanted to note that NRMC is having Mental Health First Aid training on May 16th and wanted to personally invite the Chamber Directors to attend the luncheon and listen in on what the training has been about. She also noted that it is a two day clinic and if anyone is interested in attending that to contact her and she will get them in.

The financial reports from April were reviewed. See attached.

Balances’ were reported as follows: Chamber Checking Account $2,572.22; Savings – Hiline Arts Grant $2,504.91; Economic Development Checking Account $222.59; Gift Certificate Account $1,141.41; Buckle Account $7,463.99.

Treasurer Nate Kavanagh presented the financials. Nate noted that the Economic Development account is still tight on funds, we have for the past few months been transferring money from the Operating Account to keep Economic out of the negative. Since November of 2018, $7,250.00 has been transferred. Looking ahead, Nate pointed out that we will soon have revenue coming in from visitor center grant money and the money the city gives the Chamber to help with the VIC. Amy also noted that this account is rather low right now because we just spent money on the billboard finalization. She noted that the VIC grant from the GCRTC will be at least $4,000.00 this year along with the $3,500.00 requested from the City of Cut Bank. Don Grubb made the motion to approve the April financials with Calcie Stubbs seconding the motion. Being no further discussion, the financials were approved.

**Old Business**

**Mercantile Update:** Amy updated that one week ago she was at the commissioners meeting with Jeff Billman and Mayor Raemaeker. They presented that the Public Drug building has been for sale and we have a potential buyer who would like to purchase but is wanting assurance that the mercantile building will be demolished. This has been an ongoing process since June of 2016. Amy is feeling optimistic about the demolition moving forward because the commissioners have a meeting scheduled with the Geotechnical Engineer on the 24th of May. Amy is going to check in with the commissioners regularly until then to make sure this stays a priority so we can at least get that accomplished before we can move forward with any other options.

**Final Membership Drive Update:** Nate updated that as of current numbers, we are at 176 members opposed to this time last year it was 185. There are currently 16 non renewals with a small list of “maybes”. Nicole and Nate are going to follow through with one last push before Amy removes nonrenewals from the chamber website.

**Banquet Recap:** Jess updated that it was a successful banquet overall. We had a few hiccups with the food but it was something that was out of our hands. Amy noted that as far as financials go, we are right around the same net revenue we normally have. We had more silent auction items as a whole but they went for less. The last minute addition of Sammy Bird doing a live painting was a great addition and ended up being the biggest auction item we had.

**Lewis & Clark Festival Update:** Nicole updated that everything is on track and the committee is busy planning. She said overall they are looking towards ways to keep people at the park during the “down time” so they want to always have some kind of entertainment going on. She mentioned a few new activities they are trying to add and said that for sure the National Guard is doing a obstacle course at the football field. Calcie also noted that Nicole should be in touch with the chamber directors ahead of time where they will need extra help, everyone wants LC Days to be a successful event for this community.

**Golf Tournament Update:** Nicole said the date is locked in on Sunday, June 23rd. It will be a nine-hole tournament. Letters will go out this coming Friday to solicit golf teams. She is looking into what they will do for the lunch and making sure we get to rent golf carts at a fair price. Amy noted that last year the “no host” steak dinner would have been a nice way to end the day. Nicole will discuss this at her next golf board meeting.

**New Business**

**Business Appreciation Days:** Stephanie updated that the dates are set everything is coming together for this event. We purposely have Cut Bank on the same day as Shakespeare in the Park to mash the two events together when it is already happening at the same place.

**Holiday Bazaar Update:** Amy updated that she has ordered the save the dates and they should be coming in sometime this week. She is hoping to find some community service kids to help address and stamp them next week.

**Shakespeare in the Parks:** Juanita was still at the meeting so helped discuss this event because it used to be her committee. She read that this year the play is going to be Henry IV. She said JR has not been in contact with her but she is a great resource for this event because she handled it for years. Last year the actors were not happy with the food from the Business Appreciation Days BBQ, it was decided that they will enjoy the free meal offered or will have to be responsible for providing their own dinner.

**Discussion of Revision of Political Endorsement Policy & Approval:** Ric read his revised copy of the endorsement policy. Calcie and Bryan were not sure they agreed with the policy because of the doors it opens up for the Chamber to be involved. Nobody could really come up with a solution so we tabled this again until a later date.

**Reminders:**

• Chamber Up – May 14th, Public Drug Building, 5:30-7pm

• Railroad Passenger Association Meeting – May 18th, Elk’s Club, 11:30am-5pm

• Visitor Center Open – May 24th

• Customer Service Training –June 5th, Chamber Office, 4pm

• June Board Meeting – June 5th, Chamber Office, 12-1pm

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Jessica Waldner**

**Secretary/Director**