**Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes**

**September 5th, 2018, Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Cut Bank Chamber Office – Noon**

**Directors Present:** Ric Beals, Jeff Billman, Ryan Eney, Calcie Stubbs, Michelle Nygaard, Stephanie Eney, Kristi Rowell, Pat Murphy, Don Grubb, Jessica Waldner

**Executive Director:** Amy Overstreet

**Directors Absent:** Bryan Simons (Excused)

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

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

**Guests Attending:** Cherie Taylor (NRMC), Brenda Schilling (Port Authority)

**Regular Business:** The meeting was called to order by Chamber President Ric Beals. The minutes from the August 7th meeting were presented for approval. Calcie Stubbs made the motion to accept and Don Grubb seconded the motion. Being no further discussion, the minutes were approved.

The financial reports from August 2018 were reviewed. See attached.

Balances’ were reported as follows: Chamber Checking Account $10,759.41; Savings – Hiline Arts Grant $2,502.42; Economic Development Checking Account $865.54; Gift Certificate Account $1,921.41; Buckle Account $7,463.99.

Ryan Eney presented the financials. He explained that even though some of the numbers are reporting negative, it is just an internal error with QuickBooks. Todd is working on getting it fixed. After reviewing financials, Pat Murphy made the motion to accept the August financials with Jeff Billman seconding the motion. Being no further discussion, the financials were approved.

**Old Business**

**Mercantile Update:** Amy updated that she just recently received a message from Mike Kittson. They are doing budgets at the county this week and he will let her know what they come up with. Amy also talked with the historic society and noted we have to have signs up about the mercantile if it ever does get tore down.

**Public Drug Update:** Jeff noted that Ann Clark from Shelby is still interested in purchasing this building and has been trying to find other businesses interested in renting from her if she does go forward with it. Not much else to update, but good news that she is still interested.

**2017 Financial Audit by Utterback Accounting:** Ryan updated that Elaine finished the audit and came up with $5,300.00 more than what our books read. Ryan and Elaine both agree that this number has to be something in the balance sheets and they are going to get together and adjust it in the asset column. The approval of this is tabled until everything is finalized.

**Golf Tournament Update:** Jeff says the tournament is officially set for Sunday, September 23rd. Lunch will be provided and steaks will be served after the tournament. Jeff would appreciate any help other directors can give by getting teams signed up. Looking for at least 12 teams but can go up to 18.

**Cut Bank Holiday Bazaar Update:** Amy updated that the vendor booths are officially sold out and there are already 8 people on the wait list. Only other news is that Tanya Harper and Teri Bickford will be making crepes to sell from the concession area.

**Prime Rib Cook-Off Update:** Amy said the sponsor letters for this event are going out on September 10th. North Country Cattle Women are going to do the pies again, which is a huge hit for this event. There is talk of doing some sort of raffle for ½ a beef. Amy said if anyone has a hook up for cattle to let her know. The official date for this event is still October 27th.

**Festival of Trees Update:** Wheel House is officially booked for this event on December 8th. We have is tentatively booked at the Elks but are going to see how the Prime Rib Cook-off goes and we might switch to the Pioneer if Tanya gets her new addition done in time.

**Website Advertising Update:** Letters were mailed and there is nothing else to update.

**New Business**

**Presentation of Ballot Initiative I-185:** Cherie Taylor from Northern Rockies Medical Center presented the board with a presentation on this ballot. The Billings Chamber of Commerce has voiced that they are backing this initiative and Cherie is looking for the same support from the Chamber. It was decided to do an email individually to avoid pressure to vote a certain way and results are as follows, YES in support – 2 votes, NO – 8 votes. It seemed that everyone agreed the initiative is beneficial to our local hospital but for the chamber as whole, it was probably better to remain “unpolitical” because it can open up a whole new can of worms for us in the future.

**Visitor’s Center Recap:** Amy updated that the visitor center officially closed the season. She said that this was easily her best staff yet, she had no problems all summer. Amy is finishing up the grant for wage reimbursement.

**Shop Local Campaign:** All board members agreed that we should keep doing the “Shop Local Campaign”. Amy is going to have Erin get to work on putting out the boxes at local businesses.

**Membership Drive:** Amy noted that we need to make a decision if the chamber wants to keep the tiered system on our membership forms for next year. Everyone agreed this was the best way to go and keeps it from hounding businesses when we have many events right in a row. Also, it was financially boosting for memberships in the big picture.

**Make a Difference Day:** Calcie updated that she is looking for ideas and wants to make sure something happens this year. She noted that the fire hall is looking to redo some of their siding that is peeling off and we could donate the money towards that. Everyone was in agreeance that we would like to help the fire hall. Jeff made the motion to donate the Make Difference Day money to the fire hall and Don seconded this motion, motion approved. Calcie is going to contact Linda Bruch about setting up a picture with the check.

**Laptop and Office Printer Purchase Discussions & Approval:** Amy needs a new printer and needs to be thinking about getting a new laptop if she can find a good deal on one. Hers is on the fritz. The board agreed that a printer is a definite yes and to find a good one that she wants. Also, Calcie noted Amy could probably find a good deal on a new laptop with holidays and such coming up.

**Reminders:**

• Chamber Up – NRMC, September 17th, 5:30 – 7 pm

• Cut Bank Trails Oktoberfest – September 22nd

• Chamber Challenge Golf Tournament – September 23rd

• October Board Meeting – Chamber Office, October 3rd, 12-1pm

• Prime Rib Cook-off – Elks Club, October 27th

• Cut Bank Holiday Bazaar – November 10th

• Parade of Lights – November 16th

• Festival of Trees – Elks Club, December 8th

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Jessica Waldner**

**Secretary/Director**