**Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes**

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

**Cut Bank Chamber Office – Noon**

**Directors Present:** Ric Beals, Jessica Hedges, Nate Kavanagh, Rhonda Grainger, Calcie Stubbs, Jessica Waldner, Jenika Sammons, Kristi Rowell, JR Myers, Tim Kipp

**Executive Director:** Erin Kittson

**Directors Absent:** Bryan Simons (Unexcused), Stephanie Eney (Excused), Don Grubb (Excused)

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

**Guests Attending:** None

**Regular Business:** The meeting was called to order by President Ric Beals. The minutes from the December 6th meeting were presented for approval. JR Myers made the motion to approve the minutes with Calcie Stubbs seconding the motion. Being no further discussion, the minutes were approved.

The financial reports from December were reviewed. See attached.

Balances’ were reported as follows: Chamber Checking Account $5,443.16; Savings – Hiline Arts Grant $2,506.43; Economic Development Checking Account $136.55; Gift Certificate Account $391.41; Buckle Account $3,463.99.

Treasurer Nate Kavanagh presented the financials. He noted that we just recently paid our last investor payment. Therefore going ahead, the Economic Development account should be able to support itself without having to borrow from other accounts. Nate also gave a small recap of each account to the new directors. Jessica Waldner made the motion to approve the December financials with Calcie Stubbs seconding the motion. Being no further discussion, the financials were approved.

**Old Business**

**Mercantile Update:** Erin updated that she has been checking into some grants Amy had started before she left. The feedback she is getting is that we are not eligible for the grants because they are against tearing down historic preservation.

**Public Drug Update:** Erin is hoping to continue moving forward with selling this building and coming up with a plan for a buyer to help continue demolition of the mercantile building.

**Membership Drive Update:** Nate updated that we are currently at 113 members, 79 nonrenewals. Last year we were sitting right at 121 members so we are right on track.

**Shop Cut Bank Recap:** Erin updated that there were 370 completed passports filled out and turned in for the drawing. Businesses that participated liked that this helped boost sales and keep sales in the community. The big winners of the drawing were Linda Bruch and Venus Dodson. This is definitely something that we will continue doing in the future.

**Beef & Bid Recap:** Calcie updated that this event brought in just over $6,000.00. It was a successful event and overall combining the Prime Rib Cook-off and Festival of Trees was a good idea but also noted that next year we will need to have it in a place that has more room so we can sell more tickets. Tree sales were down, which has been the trend for a few years. Overall, it was a successful event with positive feedback.

**Christmas Lights Contest Recap:** Calcie said this was successful and a fun contest to host. We had great prizes but it would have been nice to have more participation from the community. Everyone agreed the weather probably had a lot to do with only having 8 entries. This will be a great event to keep having every holiday season.

**Update on East End of Cut Bank Chamber Signs:** Erin is working on a grant to get money to fix the two signs east of town. She checked with Juanita at Dye Tavary and Judge and she said it would not be worth it to claim the signs on our insurance.

**New Business**

**Appointment and Approval of New Directors:** Ric welcomed new Chamber Directors Tim Kipp, Jessica Hedges, Rhonda Grainger, and Jenika Sammons to the board. Jessica Waldner made the motion to approve the new directors to the board with JR Myers seconding the motion. Being no further discussion, the motion as approved.

**Approval of 2020 Executive Committee:** Stephanie Eney was elected as the new Chamber President, Nate Kavanagh Vice President, Jenika Sammons Treasurer, and Rhonda Grainger Secretary. JR Myers made the motion to approve the new executive committee with Calcie Stubbs seconding the motion. Being no further discussion, the motion was approved.

**Approval of Resignation & Replacement of Calcie Stubbs:** Jessica Hedges made the motion to approve the resignation of Calcie Stubbs, effective February 29th, 2020. Rhonda Grainger seconded the motion, the motion was approved. Calcie also noted that we had previously talked about replacing her with Amber Simonds at First Interstate Bank. Nate is going to meet with Amber and see if this is something she is still interested in doing.

**2020 Committee Appointments:** Nate explained the different events to the new directors; the appointments were tabled until the next meeting when all board members are present to select what they are interesting in chairing.

**2019 Committee Report Reminder:** Due to Erin by January 15th

**2020 Budget Discussion and Review:** Nate said he will set up a meeting with bookkeeper Todd Eney and new treasurer Jenika Sammons so they will have something to present to the board for the February meeting.

**Donation Request to Cut Bank Schools:** Scott Laird has requested $500.00 from the Chamber to use towards the hospitality rooms for upcoming tournaments. This is something we have always done in the past to keep a good relationship with the schools. Calcie Stubbs made the motion to approve the $500.00 request to Cut Bank Schools, with Tim Kipp seconding the motion. Being no further discussion, the motion was approved.

**Shakespeare in the Park Date:** Tabled

**Banquet Entertainment Discussion:** Tabled

**Polka Dot Cow Creamery Truck Discussion:** Tabled

**Reminders:**

• Chamber Up/Beer For a Cause – Cut Bank Creek Brewery, January 14th, 5-8pm

• Stategic Planning Training – January 23rd, 1-5pm

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

• Annual Meeting – February 19th, 12-1pm

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Jessica Waldner**

**Secretary/Director**