

Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes

August 5, 2009

Cut Bank Development Center – Noon

Directors in Attendance: Mike Bruch, James Laidlaw, Stephanie Browning, Virginia Harman, Gloria Taylor, Jeff Billman, Tippy Burtch

Executive Director: Amy Overstreet

Directors Absent: LeAnne Kavanagh, Scott Laird, Josh Larson, Robert Carette

Directors Unexcused: Steve Bucher

Guests Attending: Mayor Doug Embody, Tracy Puryear

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Billman at 12:03 p.m.

The minutes from the July 15, 2009 meeting were presented for approval. Mike Bruch moved to approve the minutes as presented and Stephanie Browning seconded the motion. Being no further discussion, the minutes were approved unanimously.

The monthly financial report was distributed to each board member. The Chamber booth did exceptionally well during the Lewis & Clark weekend selling their merchandise with the new logo. Donations for Shakespeare in the Park were up to \$1,675. James Laidlaw moved to accept the financial report as given. Mike Bruch seconded it. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business

Amy Overstreet reported the authorization for the underground sprinklers, landscaping & sod, sign design, and sign manufacturing for the Visitor's Center has been received from CTEP. Amy will check with the City on getting the labor match for the project. Amy also expressed a deep appreciation for the staff at the Visitor's Center. She felt Shane Jensen, Danielle Wineman, Morgan McDivitt, and Lanaia Lewis had done an exceptional job throughout the season and hopes they will come back next year. After some discussion, Stephanie Browning made a motion to give the Visitor's Center staff a \$25 Gift Certificate, along with a Chamber T-shirt and tote bag in recognition of their willingness to work and dedication to the Center. The motion was seconded by Gloria Taylor and it passed unanimously. Amy was very pleased with the donations received for Shakespeare in the Park, \$1,675.

A recap for Lewis and Clark Festival was given by Stephanie Browning. She was very pleased how well it went this year. She has volunteered to be the Chairman of the event again next year. She felt the Toilet Tank, Burger Barn, Beer Wagon, and Button Sales brought in good revenues throughout the weekend. The Lewis & Clark committee will have a wrap-up meeting to compile all the figures and facts at a later date. She stated all committee members are needed to help for every event taking place in the park. Another concern was the amount of time the vendors have in the park as there was one vendor who stayed over a week. Board members suggested a contract of some sort be drawn up as to the times the vendors can set up and when they have to be out of the park.

Amy suggested the "Welcome Basket" committee consisting of Jeff Billman, Robert

Carette, Tippy Burtch, Marilyn Dunk, and Marla Embody meet and get merchandise gathered to stuff the welcome totes. The "Welcome Totes" sport the Chamber logo and will be filled with a telephone book, Discover Cut Bank magazine, and various items from the local businesses with their logo on them. This would help the new residents become familiar with the City of Cut Bank.

Relay for Life walkers raised over \$33,000 reported by James Laidlaw, chairman of the event. Seventeen teams with over 200 walkers made the evening very successful. Credit was given to Tim Curtiss for keeping the crowd entertained with various activities all night.

New Business:

Jeff will be gathering more information on advertising rates and different ideas for promoting citizens of Cut Bank to shop locally. He suggested doing a "Red Carpet Service Pledge". Something like "Shop at the Cut Bank Chamber Businesses and you're guaranteed to receive the red carpet treatment."

Jeff was also concerned about the out-of-town vendors coming into town and sitting up shop. Mayor Doug Embody said they are required to have a city business license which costs \$40 instead of the \$25 required by the established businesses. They also can park on any private property on which they have permission to do so. Jeff was concerned about the vendors who come to town to sell tools and leave town. Jeff has had people come into his business after buying the tools from these vendors to try to replace the tools as they no longer work. This item of concern will be placed on the agenda for the City Council meeting on August 17, 2009.

Mayor Doug Embody gave an update on the wading pool. Approval to begin construction was received from the State on July 15, 2009. Gene Hauer of Conrad will be doing the work and is waiting on more equipment to arrive to start the project.

Mike Bruch, Gloria Taylor, Amy Overstreet, and James Laidlaw will serve on the nominating committee. Mike Bruch, James Laidlaw and Stephanie Browning terms are up in December.

Visitor's Comments:

Reminders:

Shakespeare in the Park tonight, August 5th in the City Park at 6 p.m.

Montana State Junior Miss will Saturday, August 8th at 6:30 p.m.

Montana Fun Weekend August 14th & 15th at the Cut Bank Airport.

Chamber Up Social August 12th, Steve Bucher

James Laidlaw made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Gloria Taylor.