

Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes
September 1, 2010
Cut Bank Development Center – Noon

Directors in Attendance: Gloria Taylor, Virginia Harman, Scott Laird, Dawn Barrett, Treasure Berkram, Bryce Harman

Executive Director: Amy Overstreet

Directors Absent Excused: Jeff Billman, Carson Dunk

Directors Absent Unexcused: Josh Larson, Tippy Burtch, Robert Carette

Guests Attending: Mayor Doug Embody, LeAnne Kavanagh, Sarah Converse

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Virginia Harman at 12:06.

The minutes from the August 4, 2010 meeting were presented for approval. Scott Laird moved to approve the minutes as presented and Gloria Taylor seconded the motion. Being no further discussion, the minutes were approved unanimously.

The monthly financial report was given by Treasurer Treasure Berkram. Scott Laird moved to accept the financial report for August. It was seconded by Virginia Harman. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Amy reported the Visitor Information Center had sold more merchandise totaling \$200 for the month of August. Cherry Skryja, Danielle Wineman, Lanaia and Megan Lewis, employees of the Visitor Information Center, were given \$25 Gift Certificates for a job well done again this year. The sculptor that is making the wheat sculpture for the VIC using CTEP funds will be coming to Cut Bank next week to check out weather conditions in order for him to finish the sculpture for the Center. Amy informed the board that the MATL line is bringing in approx. 150 employees to work in Cut Bank. They are in need of places to park their trailers and/or places to rent. Amy said that the four new tiles for the VIC are completed and will be installed by Dave Jacobson in the next couple of weeks. Two of the tiles were to replace the broken ones and the other two are new ones purchased by CBDC and Little Bear Child Care. Amy reported that it recently came to her attention that the Chamber was behind on filing its tax returns. Gage Accounting will prepare the Federal taxes for the last three year and the Chamber will need to pay a \$100 compliance fee with the returns. The Montana Association of Chamber Executives (MACE) fall conference will be held in Dillon on October 11-12, 2010. Amy is not sure if she will be able to attend, but would like to attend in the future.

The Chamber Challenge Golf Tourney has 7 teams signed up and looking for more teams to sign up. The tournament is scheduled for Sept. 12 at 11am. The Chamber will provide hole prizes. American Pipe will be sponsoring a hole-in-one prize which will be a new golf cart. The profits from the tournament will be given to the charity of the winning teams' choice.

Amy stated that she has been in contact with Janice Fauque about teaming up again for this years' Festival of Trees and Keys. The Chamber board agrees that this year we should not have the Dueling Pianos again and that we should keep the event simpler than the last two years. It was suggested that Bar, Bed and Blue play. The auxiliary will meet on Sept. 8 and Amy will

attend the meeting to gather more information on their ideas for this event and for the date selection.

Virginia Harman presented the slate of candidates the nominating committee had composed for the ballot in December. They are Marla Embody, Jessica Hedges, Mike Bruch, Wade Johnson and Sissy Nygaard. After considerable discussion, no action was taken to approve the slate of candidates at this time.

Virginia reported Shakespeare in the Park was canceled due to rain. The contract stated that a refund will not be given in the event of a cancellation due to an act of God. Donations for the event totaled \$2920. After the expenses were paid, the Chamber had profited over \$1000. The Chamber had previously voted to give half of the profits raised back to Shakespeare in the Park, but due to the fact there was no performance the \$500 donation that was given to SITP will be put toward the cost of next years' performance fees.

New Business:

Mayor Embody has gotten permission from Burlington Northern Santa Fe to paint the railroad depot which will be the Chamber's Make a Difference Day project. With this permission, BNFS requests a security person to oversee the project which comes with a cost of \$800 a day. Amtrak has offered to pay for one day of security watch. Joe Kennedy, employee for BNFS, offered his time on weekends to do the security watch at no cost. The Hutterites of Glacier Colony and Hidden Lake Colony will do the scrapping and power washing to prepare the building for painting. Mark Anderson has agreed to spearhead the painting project. He estimates a total of 200 gallons of primer, paint and the Linseed oil for the roof will be needed to complete the project. Leanne Kavanagh suggested the Chamber challenge the community members, businesses, and alumni for donating a gallon of paint or more, paint supplies, or donate money towards this project. She will write an article for the paper. Gloria will pick a date to start this project but will work around the Hutterites schedule. Gloria thanked Mayor Embody for all his time and efforts to get this project off the ground.

Much discussion was done on the Cut Bank Development Corporation. With the resignation of Jerilee Wilkerson as executive director, CBDC wanted to know if the Chamber would be interested in absorbing or merging with CBDC. The Chamber board agrees that if CBDC dissolves we should develop our own economic development arm to serve Cut Bank and not to merge the two organizations. Several questions were asked concerning financial support, responsibilities to be met, and the transfer of CBDC assets. The CBDC board is meeting on Sept. 9 to decide if they should dissolve and what to do with their assets. There was also discussion on what would happen with the office space that CBDC currently is using.

The Glacier County Port Authority which has contracted with CBDC in the past would like to have a Cut Bank economic development agency take over the administrative duties if CBDC dissolves. The Glacier County Port Authority splits the administrative duties evenly between a Cut Bank and Browning agency. Although the Port Authority is still drawing up a new contract, it has been suggested that it would be \$10,000/year for the Chamber to administer 6

meeting a year and to perform various duties associated with those meetings. No action was taken at this time.

Virginia welcomed and introduced Bryce (Chip) Harman, her husband, who was appointed to the Board to fill out Stephanie Browning's term. He owns and operates Cut Bank Graphics. The board welcomed him and thanked him for joining the board.

Treasure Berkram reported the \$20,000 Certificate of Deposit was due August 27, 2010. The CD is with Stockman Bank. Discussion was held on whether to keep it at Stockman Bank or move it to Bank of Glacier. The checking account is currently at the Bank of Glacier County. Bryce Harman made a motion to keep the CD at the Stockman Bank for 15 months at 1.35%. Virginia seconded the motion and was passed unanimously.

Visitors Comments:

Visitor Center will be closing for the season on Saturday.

Reminders:

Chamber Challenge Golf Tournament Sept 12th at the Cut Bank Country Club
Lunch & Learn Sept 15th at Cut Bank Country Club at noon
Chamber Up: Sept 15th 1st American Title from 5:30 to 7:00

Gloria Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting seconded by Scott Laird