

Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes

March 4, 2009,

Cut Bank Development Center – Noon

Directors in Attendance: Mike Bruch, Stephanie Browning, Gloria Taylor, Bob Clary, Scott Laird, Jeff Billman, Josh Larson, Robert Carette, Steve Bucher,

Executive Director: Amy Overstreet

Directors Absent: LeAnne Kavanagh, Tippy Burtch

Directors Unexcused: James Laidlaw

Guests Attending: Tom Shock, Mayor Joni Stewart, Jennifer Biegler, Damon Bunting

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Billman at 12:02 p.m.

The minutes from the March 4, 2009 meeting were presented for approval. Scott Laird moved to approve the minutes as presented and Mike Bruch seconded the motion. Being no further discussion, the minutes were approved unanimously.

The monthly financial report was given by Treasurer Scott Laird. Bob Clary moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented and Stephanie Browning seconded it. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business

Jeff reported the window coverings for the Visitor's Center have been ordered.

Amy reported the Website Development project has been completed by Rich Gannon dba, Front Range Web. It is now ready for local businesses to advertise on the website. Price will vary with two options available-- One-year " footer" will cost \$600 which will be limited to ten listings, and \$100 a year for a "button" on the business membership page which will have unlimited listings. Amy also reported the Gift Certificate Program is all set. Letters have been mailed out to Chamber members explaining the program.

Membership drive is up to 147. Twenty-one new businesses have joined the Chamber. Many of the local restaurants have not yet joined. The Chamber's goal is to reach 175 members for 2009.

Stephanie Browning reported the Lewis and Clark Committee was interested in merging with the Chamber but having its own officers. After some discussion, it was decided the Lewis and Clark Committee would remain its own entity. The Chamber offered to help the committee with the festivities planned for July.

Amy presented the priority list of projects to be done at the Visitor's Center once the CTEP funds are received. They are: Landscaping/Lawn, Fencing, Security Lights, and Sprinklers. Terry Voeller will be speaking on the CTEP program at the Lunch 'n' Learn scheduled for March 18, at Charlie's Pizza.

Jeff received word from the Cut Bank Volunteer Fire Department that they will do the cooking for the Chamber banquet to be held April 4, 2009 at the Joe Meagher Memorial Civic Center. Steve Bucher will be able to get most of the supplies needed for the banquet. Tanya Harper/Pioneer Bar will cater the bar. Music will be provided by Bar Bed & Blue band. Jeff is waiting to hear about a speaker. Table sponsors will pay \$280 for a reserved table for eight. The table sponsor will supply a centerpiece which will be used as a silent auction item or a door prize. Table sponsors are responsible for decorating their own tables. The Chamber hopes to sell tickets for 40 tables.

New Business:

Bill Bandel of the Glacier County Weed Department had contacted Jeff about setting up a "Spray Day" in Cut Bank. The community would get involved in getting rid of the weeds growing in the area. Jeff will get more information and report back to the board.

The Cut Bank Chamber will be setting up a booth at the annual Glacier Electric meeting on April 4, starting at 11 a.m. Virginia Harmon, Manager of Communication and Conservation Services of Glacier Electric approached Amy on this idea.

The 2009 budget report was presented by Bob Clary. After reviewing the budget more line items needed to be added: Amy's wages for 20 hours a week and payroll taxes, Glacier Country dues for \$200 plus travel-related expenses, Montana Chamber dues for \$500, First Impressions Program, Setup and Cleanup Fee for banquet, Speaker Fee to include expenses for travel, food and lodging, After Hours Social expenses and revenue, gift certificate revenue and expenses, web page revenue and expenses and Supplies. With the additional mailings and a change in the logo, new envelopes, letterhead, and thank you cards will need to be reordered along with ink cartridges for Amy's printer. Mayor Stewart raised her hand to report the City of Cut Bank would provide a vehicle and gas for the representative to attend the Glacier Country meetings. The Chamber will discontinue the Chamber breakfast during Lewis & Clark Days due to lack of interest from the public and the expense. Mike Bruch moved to accept the budget with the amendments and Scott Laird seconded the motion. Being no further discussion, the budget was approved for 2009.

Damon Bunting, Jennifer Biegler, and Mayor Joni Stewart were in attendance to give a report on the Horizons Program's Leadership Plenty. Mayor Stewart called Jeff this morning to get on the agenda for the Chamber's noon meeting. Mayor Stewart was asking for help in getting 25 people to complete the Leadership Plenty class in order to secure the next \$10,000 of grant money available from the Northwest Area Foundation, sponsors of the Horizons program. Eleven people have signed up so far. There are lots of incentives being offered to get people enrolled in the classes.

Scott Laird moved to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Bob Clary.