

Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes
January 7, 2009
Cut Bank Development Center 3 Noon

Directors in Attendance: LeAnne Kavanagh, Jeff Billman, Mike Bruch, James Laidlaw, Stephanie Browning, Gloria Taylor, Scott Laird, Bob Clary

Executive Director: Amy Overstreet

Directors Absent: Noel Durham, Steve Bucher and Robert Carette.

Guests Attending: Carson & Marilyn Dunk, Mike Koepke, Dawn Barrett, Tracy Puryear, Tom Shock

The meeting was called to order by President LeAnne Kavanagh at 12:03 p.m

The minutes from the December 3, 2008 meeting were presented for approval. Jeff Billman 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. The Chamber had a very good year with a net increase in revenue of approximately \$25,000. In addition, the Chamber also has invested funds in a \$20,000 Certificate of Deposit. Mike Bruch moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented and Gloria Taylor seconded the motion. Being no further discussion the report was accepted unanimously. Val Vermulm will review the Chamber's financial records for 2008 and offer a report at the annual meeting on Jan. 21.

Old Business

A recap on the Festival of Keys and Trees was given by Executive Director Amy Overstreet. It was a huge success as the Cut Bank Chamber and Northern Rockies Medical Center Auxiliary raised approximately \$20,000 to be split equally. Scott will write a check payable to the NRMC Auxiliary for their share.

Amy received an insurance check for the amount of \$699 for the stolen contents at the Visitor's Center. The stolen contents were valued at \$1199 but there is a \$500 deductible on the insurance policy. The damage to the building had a separate \$500 deductible and since the total damage was less than \$500, there was no reimbursement. Jeff said he would add some reinforcements to the doors on the Visitor's Center to help prevent further break-ins.

The Chamber Wading Pool Challenge has reached \$18,087 with 169 donations received.

LeAnne expressed her gratitude to Amy for all the work she has done for the Chamber since she was hired as Executive Director. Amy is and will be a tremendous asset to the Chamber as she has taken over a lot of workload of the President. Thank you Amy.

New Business:

Mike Bruch presented the slate of new officers to the board. Bob Clary made a motion to accept the slate of officers and directors. James Laidlaw seconded it. The motion carried. Jeff Billman, who was re-elected to the board, will serve as President for 2009 and 2010. Mike Bruch will continue to serve as Vice President; Scott Laird as Treasurer, and Gloria Taylor as secretary. Tippy Burch and Josh Larson were welcomed to the board. Other directors elected were Robert Carette and Steve Bucher who were unable to attend the meeting. They will be seated at the January 21 meeting.

Jeff presided over the rest of the board meeting. He graciously thanked President LeAnne for the superb job she has done for the Chamber the last two years. "Her shoes will be hard to fill," was Jeff's comment.

Amy gave a report on the Website Development/Advertising. A proposal from Rich Gannon, dba, Front Range Web was received. He would donate his time to design and set up a new website for the Chamber. He would also provide 10 hours a year of free maintenance and upkeep to the site. After the 10 hours has been reached, he would charge his regular rate of \$20 an hour for updates and maintenance. The Chamber would pay hosting costs of \$95. This cost would be for 2 years of web hosting. The cost of hosting is based upon using the web host of which Rich is familiar with and recommends. In exchange for his time, Rich would like some free advertising on the site. Gloria made a motion to accept Rich's proposal and it was seconded Stephanie Browning. After further discussion of drawing up a contract to be approved by the Executive Board for Rich to sign, the motion passed. Amy said Rich would design a few website templates for the board to look at and decide which one would best fit the needs of the Chamber.

Amy presented the board with information concerning the Gift Certificate Program, which would be available to all Chamber members. The Gift Certificates would be redeemed at local business. After some discussion James Laidlaw made a motion to start the program, which was seconded by Gloria Taylor. The motion carried. Amy, Jeff, Josh and Gloria will serve on a committee to iron out the details on how the program will work.

After discussing the cancellation of Internet Service at the Visitor's Center during the off season, the board felt the cost was minimal and will continue it throughout the year.

More discussion was held on purchasing a computer for Amy due to the computer stolen at the Visitor Center. Bob Clary made a motion to purchase a Lap Top Computer and it was seconded by Scott Laird. The motion passed unanimously.

LeAnne asked all committee chairmen to have their Committee Reports turned in to her by January 14.

Jeff asked all directors of the Chamber to attend the City Council meeting on January 20, 2009.

Comments

Mike Koepke of the Cut Bank Development Corporation informed the board the Focus Group with Praxis Strategy Group will be at the Glacier Electric on Wednesday, January 14, from noon to 2.00 p.m.

A meeting was held December 19 on the new grocery store with only 2 people attending.

The Chamber board is still searching for a speaker for the banquet.

The Chamber's annual meeting is January 21 at noon at Charlie's Pizza

Mike Bruch moved to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Stephanie Browning at 12:46.