

**Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes
September 7, 2016, Regular Monthly Meeting
Cut Bank Chamber Office – Noon**

Directors Present: Jeff Billman, Adrienne Fritz, Calcie DeZort, Ryan Eney, LeAnne Kavanagh, Juanita Meeks, Steven Hjartarson, Sissy Nygaard, Matt Waller.

Executive Director: Amy Overstreet

Directors Absent: Pat Murphy, excused; Toni Altenburg, unexcused.

Guests Attending: None.

Regular Business: The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Billman. The minutes from the Aug. 3 meeting were presented for approval. Ryan moved to accept the minutes as presented with Adrienne seconding the motion. Being no further discussion, the minutes were approved as emailed.

The financial reports from August 2016 were reviewed. See attached.

Balances were reported as follows: \$6,275.11 Chamber Checking Account; \$15,077.84 Economic Development Checking Account; \$2,841.41 Gift Certificate Account; \$7,463.99 Buckle Account; Lewis and Clark Committee-\$8,784.49 (checking) and \$14,195.40 (money market).

It was reported the Baptist Church and It Fits, LLC will be paying full rent beginning in September.

Matt moved to accept the financial report with Calcie seconding the motion and all voting for the motion.

**Old Business
Committee updates**

Economic Development: Jeff and Amy updated the board on the Public Drug building project and announced the windows will be installation of the new windows will start soon and will conclude once the highway project is completed.

Jeff encouraged all to stop in to It Fits LLC in the Myhre Building, and welcome Vicki. The remodeling looks good, he added.

Stage Cover: Sissy and Amy updated the board on the project, noting the city will be submitting a grant for the project at week's end.

Shakespeare in the Park: Juanita said profit on this year's Shakespeare in the Park event was \$1,200 with a possible \$150 Thrivent donation yet to come. She added it was a good crowd despite the chilly weather conditions and thanked all those you housed the cast and crew.

Lewis and Clark Festival: Ryan reported the Lewis and Clark Festival netted approximately \$325. Attendance was down and the road construction most likely kept some locals from attending. The Chamber's share of the beer booth profits was \$551.50. Suggestions for next year included more kids' events. He noted the vendor bringing the kid's attractions this year canceled last minute causing the Lewis and Clark Committee not to be able to replace them in time. It was again noted that people liked the alternate parade route and maybe next year the committee may look to bring in fiddlers or the return of the original pageant.

Business Appreciation Days: Steven reported 40 businesses participated in this year's BAD barbecues and the net profit was about \$3,000. There was plenty of help at all the BBQs and with the early harvest the BBQs hit some producers' harvest, which resulted in some folks taking burgers/dogs out to the farmers in the fields. The Chamber will once again give Nikki Baker at the senior center \$250 in Chamber bucks for her assistance with the local BBQ.

Mercantile Update: Amy reported the Port Authority approved \$10,000 for demolition expenses related to the old Merc building. She also met with City Superintendent Jim Suta on the

parking lot layout and green space landscaping. The latter may be a possible Make a Difference Day project. Calcie is looking into the feasibility of this.

Golf Tournament: The annual Chamber golf tournament is slated for Sunday, September 18. The entry fee is \$250 per team and \$50 for mulligans. Jeff is still in need of a few teams and hole prizes and most likely the food will be the leftovers from the Oktoberfest celebration the night before.

Holiday Bazaar: The Holiday Bazaar has been scheduled for Saturday, November 5th. Adrienne and Amy updated the board that this year's event is nearly sold out with only a few spots left. They have also hired Sara Peterson to manage the concessions. LeAnne volunteered to donate 40 lbs. of browned ground beef for the Tacos in a Bag. They are currently for someone to play Santa and someone else to take Santa photos.

New Business

Visitor's Center: According to Amy, this summer has been extremely slow. Usually the VIC has over 1,000 visitors and this year's visitor count was a mere 271. This, however, allowed the staff to work on decorations, etc., for the upcoming Chamber and Walking Trail events.

Shop Local Campaign: The board concurred with Amy they should hold the 'Shop Local' campaign again this holiday shopping season.

Parade of Lights and Social: The Parade of Lights and Social will be held on Nov. 12. Matt and Juanita are co-chairs.

Festival of Trees: Lindsey at the Elks suggested all aspects of the Festival of Trees should be held on the same level of the Elks. It was decided downstairs would be best with proceeds going to community projects.

Website Advertising: The Chamber's website will undergo a redesign and letters have gone out to prospective advertisers. There may be a tourism grant available to offset the cost of the redesign.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

LeAnne Kavanagh
Secretary/Director

Reminders:

- Next Chamber Board Meeting – October 5
- Chamber Up at Cut Bank Volunteer Fire Department and Stockman Bank on Oct. 11