

Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes
May 4, 2016 Regular Monthly Meeting
Cut Bank Chamber Office – Noon

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

Executive Director: Amy Overstreet

Directors Absent: Pat Murphy and Adrienne Fritz (Excused), Don Grubb, City of Cut Bank.

Guests Attending: Morgan O'Brien and Ashley Howse, NRMC.

Regular Business

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Billman. The minutes from the April 6 meeting were presented for approval. Ryan moved to accept the minutes as presented with Calcie seconding the motion. Being no further discussion, the minutes were approved as emailed.

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

Balances were reported as follows: \$15,881.05 Chamber Checking Account; \$24,822.35 Economic Development Checking Account; \$4,217.72, Gift Certificate Account; \$7,463.99 Buckle Account; Lewis and Clark Committee-\$ 2,735.64 (checking) and \$16,190.48 (money market).

Sissy and Amy confirmed expenses were up somewhat due to the two large merchandise orders of nearly \$4,000, which are the new designs and will be on sale at the Visitor's Center throughout the summer. As for the banquet, Sissy said, "We'll end up well," when all the bills and revenue are in. Profit was estimated at \$8,000 to \$10,000.

Matt moved the financial report be accepted with Juanita seconding the motion and all voting in favor of the motion.

Old Business

Committee updates

Economic Development: Jeff and Amy provided update on the Public Drug building and the meeting that was held with the executive committee to spec out the windows so they could go out to bid. It is estimated windows won't be installed until the Main Street Project is done in August or September.

Stage Cover: Sissy said "the ball is in the city's court" until there is a structure approved for a price around \$80,000 and until then she's not interested in pursuing the project. The design the city's engineer is proposing is not the same one as the committee selected. Mayor Dan Raemaeker and Supt. Jim Suta are working on other options. Don was asked to visit with Mayor Raemaeker to see where they are on the project. Sissy and Jeff will go to the May 9 meeting of the city council and see if city is interested in partnering and pursuing a tourism infrastructure grant for the project.

Membership: LeAnne congratulated the board on reaching the goal of 200 plus members! Linda and Amy will prepare the Chamber gift certificates for those directors who recruited or renewed five members or more during the membership drive challenge.

Banquet: Amy said there was lots of positive feedback from the banquet. Although the band was a little pricey for the length of time they actually played, people enjoyed their music. Auction income was down somewhat due to the lower number of auction items and revenue attributed to NaturEner and oil-related businesses were also noticeably absent—approximately \$3,000. All in all, though, the event went well. Merchandise sales were nearly \$800. Last year's profit of \$18,000 was the highest ever. Amy expects this year's profit to be around \$10,000. Next year's banquet may be totally different following a game/game show theme. Morgan will contact a friend in Chester for more information. Jeff congratulated Amy on another fine job in organizing the banquet.

Lewis and Clark Festival: Sissy updated the board on the 38th Lewis and Clark Festival, which will have a Hillbilly Hoedown these. The next committee meeting will be May 17. New events they are working on include some type of o-mok-see or other event at the Saddle Club on Sunday of the weekend. The dates are July 28-31. The EMS will have a super hero run and Lewis and Clark Challenge and music lined up so far is Kickstar, The Henge and Wylie Gustafson.

Shakespeare in the Park: Thrivent is providing \$250 toward the expenses incurred from hosting Shakespeare in the Park and Juanita confirmed this year's performance of "A Comedy of Error" will be on Aug. 3.

New Business

VIC Update and Wage Approval for Staff: Amy reported the Chamber has received the \$3,500 Glacier Country Staffing Grant and she has hired the staff for the summer. The Visitor's Center will be open 52 hours per week and will be staffed by Allie Anderson, Nianna Light, Rebecca Laird and Lindsea Vaught. On a motion by Steven, second by Sissy the board voted to give the returnees a 25¢ per hour increase and to pay Lindsea \$8.25 per hour. Allie's wage will be \$9.25 per hour, Nianna's will be \$10.25 per hour, and Rebecca will be paid \$11.25 per hour. Their duties will include keeping the lawn and surrounding area mowed, weed eating, etc.

Business Appreciation Days: This year's barbecues will be held on Aug. 1-4. Discussion on the Browning attendance and venue was held and it was determined to follow the same schedule this year with Cut Bank's BBQ coinciding with Shakespeare in the Park on Aug. 3 and Browning winding down the week on Aug. 4. Next year we may change it up and do a joint event with the Stampede Park organizers. There should not be a conflict with the Heart Butte Society Celebration this year since it is on Aug. 11-14.

Montana Main Street Conference: Amy suggested we hold a special board meeting to discuss and prioritize the many ideas she picked up at the recent conference. The board will hold a special meeting on May 11 to do this.

Lien Search for Glacier Motel: Steven made a motion, which was seconded by Matt, for the board to pay the \$200 fee to have a property guarantee and lien search done on the Glacier Motor Inn property by First American Title Company. The funds will come out of the Chamber's economic development budget.

Non-Profit Training on May 26: On a motion by Ryan and second by Juanita, the board approved Amy attending a training for non-profit executive directors and boards and the Chamber will cover Amy's travel expense and time.

Approval of New Renter for Myhre Building: Vicki Connelly Schott is interested in expanding her business and wants to relocate to the Myhre Building. On the motion of Sissy, second by Calcie, the board gave Jeff the go ahead to offer her reduced rent of \$200 per month for June, July and August and then regular rent of \$500 per month for September through May 2017. She will also be paying all utilities and the Chamber will make the necessary updates to flooring and repairs as she has specified.

Reminders:

- The May Chamber Up will be hosted by Billman's Home Décor on May 10.
- Visitor's Center opens May 27.
- Next Chamber board meeting is June 1.

Comments

There were no additional comments.

The meeting was adjourned.

LeAnne Kavanagh
Secretary/Director