

**Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes
October 5, 2016, Regular Monthly Meeting
Cut Bank Chamber Office – Noon**

Directors Present: Jeff Billman, Adrienne Fritz, Calcie DeZort, Ryan Eney, Juanita Meeks, Pat Murphy, Toni Altenburg, Steven Hjartarson, Sissy Nygaard.

Executive Director: Amy Overstreet

Directors Absent: LeAnne Kavanagh excused; Matt Waller, excused.

Guests Attending: Maggie Nutter, Marias River Livestock Association.

Regular Business: The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Billman. The minutes from the September 7th meeting were presented for approval. Steven moved to accept the minutes as presented with Juanita seconding the motion. Being no further discussion, the minutes were approved as emailed.

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

Balances were reported as follows: \$6,283.89 Chamber Checking Account; \$15,381.92 Economic Development Checking Account; \$2,766.41 Gift Certificate Account; \$7,463.99 Buckle Account; Lewis and Clark Committee-\$7,552.39 (checking) and \$14,196.22 (money market).

Jeff noted that we are still waiting on several checks from the Golf Tournament and we will have an exact profit and expense sheet in November.

Pat moved to accept the financial report with Adrienne seconding the motion and all voting for the motion.

Old Business

Committee updates

Economic Development/Public Drug Update: Amy updated that the new windows for the Public Drug had arrived and are anticipated to be installed after the construction on Main Street is concluded. Amy also stated that the interested party in the purchasing of the Public Drug is still interested but is also inquiring on another building at this time. While no progress has been made on the selling of the Public Drug the Chamber is still in conversation with the interested party and hopeful that an agreement can be reached in the coming months.

Jeff reported that there has been quite a bit of community excitement about the addition of It Fits LLC located in the Myhre Building and that community members are thankful to have another business downtown.

Stage Cover: Amy updated that the Montana Office of Tourism Infrastructure Grant had been completed and submitted for review. However, we will not know the results for several weeks, but Amy will keep us posted if we are rewarded any funds. If we are rewarded funds, we may be able to apply for a grant in the spring to match funds.

Mercantile Update: Amy updated that progress is moving forward with the demolition of the Mercantile. The County has agreed to pay for the demolition while the Montana DEQ will be paying for the abatement of the property. The City of Cut Bank has agreed to take on the property as a city park and will maintain the pavement and the landscaping. All directors agreed that the landscaping of the lot would make an excellent Make a Difference Day project and the \$1,500 Make a Difference money was granted to the renovation of the Mercantile into a new city park. Amy reported that she had contacted a landscape artist out of Great Falls called the Yardist to help with the new landscaping. Discussion of the new parking lot as an art-scape park was discussed between directors. Amy mentioned that grant money was available through the High-line Arts Council that could be used towards this project.

Golf Tournament Recap: Jeff reported that the golf tournament had an excellent turn out this year with 14 teams and 56 golfers total. Jeff estimated a profit of around \$3,000 and mentioned that the Cut Bank Golf Course did an excellent job of hosting the tournament this year. Jeff stated that he had received several positive reviews of this year's tournament, but many

members would like to see the tournament moved from September back to the weekend of Lewis and Clark Days.

Holiday Bazaar Update: Amy and Adrienne reported that planning for this year's Holiday Bazaar was in full swing. All vendor spots were sold out and planning for concessions is under way. Adrienne stated that many volunteers were still needed for the event and the committee was looking for willing volunteers to work the doors, make soup for concessions, and run the Czechoslovakian raffle. Adrienne also reported that she was working with businesses once again this year to create a coupon book to hand out to visitors at the door to help bring some business downtown after the bazaar was over.

Website Advertising: Ryan reported that renewal information had been mailed out to all Chamber members. Pricing for advertisements remains the same as last year. Amy noted that she will be sending out an email reminder to all businesses that have not yet renewed.

Shop Local Campaign: Amy updated that Shop Local Campaign letters were mailed out October 3rd and she has heard from several businesses who are interested in participating in the campaign again this year. The campaign will begin the first week of November and run until December.

New Business

Parade of Lights and Social: Juanita reported that the original date we had anticipated for the Parade of Lights and Social is unavailable at the Civic Center. Directors discussed the possibility of moving the Parade of Lights and Social to another day or holding the social at another location. All directors agreed to move the Parade of Lights and Social to November 18 and to remain having the social at the Civic Center. Amy and Jeff stated that they would schedule a work night on November 8th to make any repairs to decorations and lights.

Festival of Trees: Calcie reported that planning for this year's Festival of Trees is in full swing. The Festival of Trees has been scheduled for December 3rd at the Elks. Amy noted that she has been in contact with Lisa Screeton as our primary choice for entertainment for the event. Lisa, a very talented pianist, will be playing seasonal standards from a variety of genres on a piano throughout the night. Calcie reported that appetizers and a French fry bar would also be provided throughout the night. Amy noted that event sponsor letters will soon be mailed out and asked for directors to follow up with in-person visits.

Make A Difference Day: Calcie reported that the Mercantile make over was chosen as the 2016 Make a Difference Day project. The Make a Difference Day money will be used for landscaping and art-scaping of the lot. Once demolition is complete and pavement is laid volunteers will be needed to help complete the project.

Approval of Slate of Candidates for Director Election Ballot: Amy announced the three nominations for the upcoming director election. Maggie Nutter, Pastor Ric Beals, and Michelle Nygaard have all accepted and chosen to run as candidates for the 2017 election. Pat made a motion to approve the candidates while Steven seconded the motion with the Chamber board unanimously approving it.

Membership Drive: Amy reported the membership drive would begin the first of November. Directors discussed adding a family membership to the available membership options. After further discussion the Chamber board decided to add three divisions of membership to this year's drive; single \$35, family \$70, and business \$100. Jeff suggested that all Chamber events be listed on the membership application as well as removing non-chamber events such as Relay for Life.

Insurance Review: Juanita updated the board that no new changes have been made to the insurance policy. However, there has been a slight increase in the premium of \$46 due to the cost of building replacement increasing with the renovations of the Public Drug.

Reminders:

- Chamber Up – Stockman Bank at the Fire Hall October 11, 2016 5:30PM
- Next Chamber Board Meeting – November 2, 2016
- Holiday Bazaar-November 5, 2016
- Parade of Lights & Social- November 18, 2016
- Festival of Trees- December 3, 2016

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Calcie DeZort
Director