

**Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes  
August 5, 2015 Regular Monthly Meeting  
Cut Bank Chamber Office – Noon**

**Directors Present:** Matt Waller, Steven Hjartarson, Pat Murphy, Adrienne Fritz, Sissy Nygaard, and Juanita Meeks.

**Executive Director:** Amy Overstreet

**Directors Absent:** Jeff Billman, Gail Hofstad, LeAnne Kavanagh, Calcie DeZort and Pete Hetherington, all excused.

**Guests Attending:** Alison Vergeront-Steve Daines rep. and David Jacobsen

**Regular Business:** The meeting was called to order by vice president, Steven Hjartarson. The minutes from the July regular board meeting were presented for approval. Pat moved to accept the minutes as emailed and Matt Waller seconded the motion. Being no further discussion, the minutes were approved as emailed.

The financial reports from July 2015 were reviewed. See attached.

Balances were reported as follows: \$8,837.28 Chamber checking account; \$16,316.42 Economic Development checking account; \$9,207.06 Gift Certificate account; \$7,418.99 Buckle account; Lewis and Clark Committee-\$18,273.48 (checking) \$11,191.93 (money market). Sissy and Amy reviewed the expenses noting the Thank You gift certificate to Mayor Embody for \$50 to Serrano's and the "donation" to Shakespeare in the Park, which is actually the payment needed to bring the play to the community. Matt moved to accept the financials and Adrienne seconded the motion and all voting in favor of the motion.

**Old Business**

**Committee updates:**

**Walking Trail Update:** Amy reported on the \$25,000 State Farm presentation at the Lewis & Clark Festival. Pat reported the Coulee Trail portion easements are completed with the last one from Dr. Fultz on the west border that gives access to Mountain View Blvd. Amy will work with the paper on an article to explain the trail markers on the city streets. The trails committee is planning Oktoberfest for Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> as their next fundraiser.

**Economic Development:** In Jeff's absence, Amy reported the Brownsfield grant process was moving forward. The last document needed was a compliance statement and the work plan was approved with the Bear Paw expenses to be used as the grant match. Dollars should be awarded in August and then we can discuss the next steps.

**Lewis & Clark Festival:** Sissy presented a preliminary report of income and expenses. All went well except for Carson Dunk's broken ankle on the Lewis & Clark Tour. Since he was leading the tour, basically working for the Chamber at the event (volunteer), Juanita was asked to look into filing a claim to help with his medical expenses. Good crowds and button tickets seemed to be increased. Sissy was grateful for the car show participants again this year.

**Business Appreciation Days:** Steven reported they had good crowds and good weather for the 1<sup>st</sup> two picnics in Sunburst and Valier. Workers are needed for the Cut Bank picnic tonight at 4:15 since we will begin serving at 5:00 to be done in time for the Shakespeare play at 6:00. Browning picnic will start at 5:30 at the Rodeo grounds. It was noted that the Heart Butte Indian Days is also due to start on Thursday so the crowds may not be as large again this year. There are 40 sponsors and the food order was decreased from last year. Eagle beverages traded their sponsorship for the sign. Amy will send a thank you to Nikki at the Senior Center for handling the food order and letting us use their coolers. Pat moved to give her the same as last year, \$250 in Chamber bucks. Motion was seconded by Juanita and approved by all.

**Shakespeare in the Park:** Juanita reported the donations to Shakespeare in the Park were up just a bit at \$2575. Housing is set but as most of them are in houses with no hosts, Juanita will provide breakfast for actors and will serve hamburgers and hotdogs from the picnic instead of pizza for dinner after the play. They will set up in the same location, far corner of the park so that the audience will be shaded as it should be a warm evening.

**New Business:**

**Golf Tournament:** Jeff reported to Amy he is trying to get the Sunday after Labor Day for the golf tournament this year and Amy will send out the letters as soon as the golf course confirms the date.

**Sign Purchase for Lions Club Sign:** Amy received a request to put up a Chamber sign on the Lion's Club sign at the city park. We discussed the type of signs from the other organizations already displayed. David Jacobsen told us most the other signs were stickers that were not UV and not very expensive. Amy thought she could order one that would be UV protected to last longer. Amy has the logo already so the cost should be kept down. Pat moved to purchase a sign with UV protection for up to \$125. Steve seconded the motion and it was approved.

**Merchandise Purchase Approval:** Amy reported that merchandise was down after the Lewis and Clark Days sales, especially from the alumni vouchers of which 178 were redeemed. She needs to fill some orders as the larger sizes were sold out. The MT outline t-shirts sold well and she is also out of tote bags. She will see about getting them from Pony Expressions since Holly has the design. Sissy made a motion for Amy to fill the alumni orders and replenish the merchandise as needed for the craft fair and other sales. Pat seconded the motion and it was approved.

**Festival of Trees:** Adrienne reported the date is set for Saturday, Dec. 5, 2015 at the Elks' Club. Sissy suggested Double Down Duo for a band as they were a hit on Friday afternoon in the park for Lewis and Clark Days.

**Nominating Committee Appointments:** Board members completing their 1<sup>st</sup> term are Calcie, Gail, Jeff and Pat and they would be up for reelection for their second terms so we only need two more people for the ballot. All agreed the committee should consist of Jeff, LeAnne, Calcie, Pete and Amy.

**Port Authority Update:** Pat reported although he wasn't able to attend the last port authority meeting, he did know that they accepted LeAnne and Mike's resignations with Doug Embody and Bill McCauley stepping up to take their places. Glenda Hall is now the administrator in place of Amy but the Chamber is still owed for her work in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2015. Next meeting is set for 8/13/15 although Pat had not received the information as yet. They will be discussing the Economic Development Fund restructuring.

**Comments:** Steve asked if the guests had any comments or concerns. Alison said she was just in town for another meeting and wanted to sit in on the Chamber meeting to report to Steve Daines' office on our activities.

Sissy reported she met with the City on the stage cover. The city will pay for the engineers study and then we will need a committee to pick out the type of cover and work on funding for the actual project.

**Reminders:** Shakespeare in the Park, tonight 6:00 with BAD picnic at 5:00.

Economic Development meeting was not set.

Chamber Up – Edward Jones hosting at the city park, Aug. 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 with Scott Fritz cooking. Adrienne and crew are selling raffle tickets for a BBQ from Billman's to benefit the Walking Trail. You must be present to win. Juanita will stand in for Pat as he will be out of town.