

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

Directors Present: Jeff Billman, Toni Altenburg, Calcie DeZort, Ryan Eney, LeAnne Kavanagh, Juanita Meeks, Pat Murphy, Matt Waller.

Executive Director: Amy Overstreet

Directors Absent: Adrienne Fritz, excused; Steven Hjartarson, excused; Sissy Nygaard, excused.

Guests Attending: Kim Winchell, Hi-Line Relay for Life; Larry Schwindt, Cut Bank Trails.

Regular Business: The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Billman. The minutes from the June 1 meeting were presented for approval. Calcie moved to accept the minutes as presented with Juanita seconding the motion. The minutes for the June 27 special Executive Committee meeting were also presented for approval. Pat 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 June 2016 were reviewed. See attached.

Balances were reported as follows: \$10,003.26 Chamber Checking Account; \$20,446.79 Economic Development Checking Account; \$3,716.41 Gift Certificate Account; \$7,463.99 Buckle Account; Lewis and Clark Committee-\$1,603.84 (checking) and \$16,193.51 (money market).

In Sissy's absence, Amy clarified the Newfields expense will be offset by a deposit under revenues on the next bank statement. The funds have been received but did not appear on the monthly bank statement. The two gas bills were due to the Chamber closing out his account for the Myhre Building when the new renter, Vicki Connelly of It Fits!, started renting the building last month.

Calcie moved the financial report be accepted with Juanita seconding the motion and all voting for the motion.

Visitor Kim Winchell: Kim shared with the board information on the 10th annual Hi-Line Relay for Life, which is scheduled for Aug. 12, two weeks after the Lewis & Clark Festival in order to give people an opportunity to catch their breath and then take part in the revived event. Winchell is seeking cash donations/sponsors for the event, which is no longer a beneficiary of the Glacier Community Fund Drive. She encouraged directors to get involved anyway their schedules allowed and to also invite survivors to the honorary dinner.

Old Business

Committee updates

Economic Development: Jeff and Amy updated the board on the Public Drug building project. With the award of the window/door bid to Triangle Glass, the contract is underway and is expected to be completed by mid-August if the highway construction project stays on schedule. Jeff said the windows have been ordered. As for the sale of the building, two parties are interested. Mike Bruch is still considering his options and is optimistic but has not submitted an offer. Another interested party, who shall remain nameless at this point, is also very interested and has been in the building several times and has indicated will be making an offer soon.

Vicki Connelly is working on moving her new business into the Myhre Building and anticipates being open as soon as the sidewalks are ready.

Amy informed the board that Christin Hileman of Newfields is the sister-in-law of the gentleman who was mauled and killed by a grizzly bear near West Glacier. The board concurred with Amy that it would be appropriate to send a sympathy card to Christin and her family.

Stage Cover: There is no news on this project. Amy is doubtful the City and Chamber have enough information and concurrence on the project to apply for the Montana Office of Tourism grant that is due at the end of the month. She will continue to look at grants that may be applicable to the project once it is ready to be pursued.

Lewis and Clark Festival: Ryan updated the board on the Lewis and Clark Festival and passed out the new posters promoting the event. Kudos were given to Calcie for her design of the Hillbilly Penguin. Ryan also passed around the sign up sheets for volunteers to sign up and help with both the beer booth and the dunk tank. The board discussed the need to enter a simple float in the parade. Amy will see if she can find an inflatable penguin for the truck and banners of the various Chamber projects will also be used as props. Ryan said the parade route will be different this year due to the highway project. More on the route will be publicized at a later date.

Shakespeare in the Park: Juanita reminded the board this year's performance of "A Comedy of Error" will be on Aug. 3. Juanita has yet to hear back about the Thrivent grant money offered through the Shakespeare in the Park program. Amy said donations to date are \$2,120. Juanita said she will house three of the crew, with Fritzes offering to house three more at their house in town. Toni said she will also check to see if the hospital-owned house is vacant during the days housing is needed.

Business Appreciation Days: This year's barbecues will be held on Aug. 1-4. Jeff reported all locations have been reserved, with this year's Browning BBQ scheduled at Stampede Park. They will be ordering a little less food to begin with due to the past few years there have been a lot of leftovers. Jeff said the Browning BBQ is the one where additional workers are needed, adding anyone needing a ride could meet at Billman's on Aug. 4 for a ride.

VIC: Amy reported numbers are down significantly due to the Main Street construction but the new signage is helping somewhat. The staff is keeping busy with the Chamber's offer of "free labor" for one to two hours to non-profits and community organizations in town. The staff is also researching and writing grants for the Cut Bank Trails. They will receive a \$10 Chamber gift certificate for each grant they write and a \$100 Chamber gift certificate if their grant application is funded. Cut Bank Trails will provide funding for the gift certificates.

New Business

Discussion of Mercantile Demo/Approval of Landscaping Budget for Green Space: Amy reported on her productive meetings with the County Commissioners and City Council and additional conversations with Sweetgrass Development and Glacier County Regional Port Authority. The commissioners have committed up to \$7,000 for abatement related expenses with action taken at their July 5 meeting. The Port Authority has been approached to fund the \$17,000 demolition once the abatement has taken place. They will discuss/approve the request at their July 21 meeting. The city will discuss the Chamber's proposal to take the razed lot and turn it into a city parking lot with the Chamber providing a green space in the area at their July 19 meeting. If all partners agree and proceed as scheduled, the project could be started and completed as early as August. The Chamber will use the green space project as its 2016 Make a Difference Day project with Amy writing a grant for up to \$8,500 to be combined with the Chamber's budgeted \$1,500. Calcie made the motion to that affect, with Juanita seconding it, and the Chamber board unanimously approving it.

Golf Tournament: The Chamber's annual golf tournament will be held on Sunday, Sept. 18, the day after the Oktoberfest fundraiser for the Cut Bank Trails Committee. The 9-hole scramble will be more of a fundraiser than in past year's and Jeff and Amy will seek out sponsors for the food, course expenses, etc., to limit the Chambers outlay of funds. NorthWestern Energy, Edward Jones, NaturEner and soon-to-be First Interstate Bank were potential sponsors mentioned. The entry fee is \$250 per team and \$50 for mulligans. Amy will mail out information on August 1 and Juanita will research the cost for hole-in-one prize of \$5,000 and \$10,000. Jeff is hoping to get 18 teams to participate this year.

On a related note, there was lots of discussion on what type of event to have in lieu of the marathon that was originally scheduled for Sept. 17. With the onset of the high school cross-country season there are too many events already scheduled that day. Some ideas for events included a color run, Olympic obstacle course, pet run, etc. Toni will update the board at the next meeting.

Reminders:

- The August Chamber Up will be hosted by Edward Jones on Aug. 16 in the City Park.
- The September Chamber Up may be the Farmers Market in City Park.
- The October Chamber Up will be Stockman Bank and the Cut Bank Volunteer Fire Dept. at the Fire Hall.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

LeAnne Kavanagh
Secretary/Director