

Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes
May 6, 2015 Regular Monthly Meeting
Cut Bank Chamber Office – Noon

Directors Present: Jeff Billman, Calcie DeZort, Adrienne Fritz, Pete Hetherington, Steven Hjartarson, Gail Hofstad, LeAnne Kavanagh, Juanita Meeks, Sissy Nygaard, Pat Murphy and Matt Waller.

Executive Director: Amy Overstreet

Directors Absent: None.

Guests Attending: Ryan Eney, Bank of Glacier County; Don Grubb, City of Cut Bank and Glacier Cinema; Lyndie Kraft, Leavitt Group.

Regular Business:

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Billman. The minutes from April meeting were presented for approval. Pat moved to accept the minutes as emailed and Steven seconded the motion. Being no further discussion, the minutes were approved as emailed.

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

Balances were reported as follows: \$20,533.04 Chamber Checking Account; \$15,651.45 Economic Development Checking Account; \$6,320, Gift Certificate Account; \$7,418.99 Buckle Account; Lewis and Clark Committee-\$ 6,553.96 (checking) and \$11,189.13 (money market).

Sissy and Amy provided recaps of the month's fundraisers, the movie premiere and the banquet. The premiere grossed over \$4,700 and netted the Chamber just over \$2,000. The banquet, which had gross revenue of over \$28,000, netted the Chamber just under \$18,000. The \$17,462 net profit is believed to be the largest in recent history.

Amy informed the board the Chamber has been absorbing Walking Trail Project expenses for copies, etc. In the future, those expenses will be picked up by the City of Cut Bank.

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

Old Business

Committee updates:

Cut Bank Movie: Amy provided a recap on the successful event. Both showings attracted large crowds, with the 6 p.m. show almost sold out and the 9 p.m. show completely sold out...to a bit rowdier crowd. Amy spoke with Roberto Patino about some of the crowd member's behavior and then sent a copy of the letter that appeared in the Cut Bank Pioneer Press from a community member expressing her disappointment with the behavior of some in attendance. Amy stressed the alcohol-induced behavior by those did not happen at the event but during their pre-functioning at other establishments. Merchandise sales were up at and after the event and Amy expects to place another large order soon. She also thanked Don Grubb and his staff for the excellent job they did and noted how easy and "amazing" they all were to work with.

Walking Trail Update: Amy noted the Anna Jeffries portion of the trail is still on track to be completed by the Lewis and Clark Festival. There are now nine sub-committees of the trail and a \$25,000 grant application to the State Farm Neighborhood Assist program has been submitted. The City of Cut Bank is taking over the Walking Trail Checking Account and Val Vermulm will be handling the financials. Lyle Meeks is completing the final draft of the trail placement and the feasibility study. A walkthrough of Phase I with affected landowners and easement approval is nearly completed. Financially, the committee has outstanding debt of \$3,000 (GEC Revolving Loan Fund) and has \$2,000 in its checking account. The CTEP match will be provided as in-kind match of gravel. The committee will be utilizing the City of Cut Bank's non-profit status. There was discussion about having committee members donate to purchase/sponsor benches, maintenance, etc.

Bylaws: The proposed bylaw changes (see attached) were approved with the inclusion of the purchase of the bond for officers. The motion was made by Juanita, seconded by Adrienne and approved by the board. A motion was made by Sissy, seconded by Juanita and approved to

purchase a bond in the amount of \$25,000 that will cover four officer/directors.

Economic Development-Jeff reminded the board the committee is still waiting to hear on the Brownsfield Grant. We should hear about the grant award later this month. Amy would like to attend the Brownsfield Conference in Helena later this month. This appears later in the agenda but the board voted to pay expenses for her to attend at this point in the meeting. Meg O'Leary of the Main Street Montana program is working with Jeff on programs to better prepare high school students to be better-trained employees.

Banquet Recap: In addition to the above report, Amy told the board the profit designation for the banquet was set as the Walking Trail and it was suggested \$5,000 be donated to the project. With the staffing grant at \$3,400 and no additional funding available from the state tourism office this year, the board agreed this was a fair amount. Sissy made the motion to donate \$5,000 to the Walking Trail, which was seconded by Pat and approved unanimously.

Lewis and Clark Festival: Sissy updated the board on the festival happenings. Tim Joyn-er designed the new logo for 2015. Plans are being finalized for the half marathon. The entry fee of \$35 will entitle runners to a dri-fit logo shirt and teams will be encouraged to ensure a fair number of participants. Tony Altenburg is in charge and it is slated to start at 7 a.m. and the path will follow at least some portions of the proposed walking trail with all profits being designated for the Walking Trail Project. Plans are progressing on the rest of the events as well.

New Business:

Community Wellness Program: Toni was not here for presentation.

Business Appreciation Days: Steven reported the BAD barbeques will be held on Aug. 3 in Sunburst; Aug. 4 in Valier; Aug. 5 in Cut Bank in conjunction with Shakespeare in the Park; and Aug. 6 in Browning at the same venues and will feature similar menus. The fee to participate is \$150 per business and letters will be going out in late June. There was some discussion on how to improve attendance at the Browning BBQ, which has been down due to scheduling conflicts the past couple of years.

VIC Update/Wage Approval for Staff: Amy informed the board Cut Bank did not received the \$8,000 VIC staffing grant from the Office of Tourism this year so the hours of the VIC will return to that of prior years. Amy has hired Rebecca Laird and Nianna Light (returning employees) and Alex Kraft and Allie Anderson (new hires) to staff the VIC this season. SuperHost training will be completed online prior to the opening of the VIC on Memorial Day weekend. The board approved the wages proposed as \$10 per hours for Rebecca; \$11 per hour for Nian-na; \$9 per hour for Alex and Allie.

Brownsfield Training Conference: See above in Economic Development Committee report.

Other: Jeff asked the board for input in holding off on the Chamber Golf Tournament until September due to the All Class Reunion holding a tourney the same weekend during the Lewis and Clark Festival and the board concurred to change the date to September.

Reminders:

The next Chamber Up that is scheduled is July 14 with Ray Christiaens and DTJ hosting. First American Title is also set to host in June but not date was finalized.

Motion to adjourn by Calcie, second by Juanita, and unanimous approval.

LeAnne Kavanagh
Secretary/Director