

Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes
Jan. 7, 2015 Regular Monthly Meeting
Cut Bank Chamber Office – Noon

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

Executive Director: Amy Overstreet

Directors Absent: Adrienne Fritz (excused), Neil McCormick (unexcused)
Amie Allison and Marc Roncco (outgoing)

Guests Attending: None

Regular Business:

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Billman. The minutes from the Dec. 3 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 December 2014 were reviewed. See attached.

Balances were reported as follows: \$15,852.20 Chamber Checking Account; \$6,755.33 Economic Development Checking Account; \$7,418.99 Buckle Account; Lewis and Clark Committee-\$ 7,427.96 (checking) and \$11,187.77 (money market).

Sissy proudly boasted, “We have money!” and reminded the board members how the role of the Chamber has changed over the last five year period to one of more of a “spearheading” entity of many community projects and endeavors and this is reflected in the fluctuation of our finances throughout the year. Gail moved the financial report be accepted with Juanita seconding the motion and all voting in favor of the motion.

Committee updates:

Economic Development-Jeff reported the committee is in a holding pattern now that the Brownsfield Grant application has been completed and submitted. Amy said Newfields is very encouraged by the application, calling it one of the strongest they have seen. We should hear about the grant award by May. Jeff also visited with Gov. Steve Bullock about the Public Drug project and the governor asked for more information on it, noting it may be a good fit with his Montana Main Street program. Amy also updated the board on a \$5,700 donation to the Chamber’s Economic Development Fund from the City of Cut Bank.

Festival of Trees-Amy reported the net profit from the successful fundraiser was approximately \$12,000, thanks to the low overhead and generous donations by event sponsors (\$4,750), auction bidders (\$7,500) and drink and ticket sales. Jeff questioned whether or not the expense of a band was worth it given many people do not stay and listen/dance to the band. Amy suggested next year the Chamber pay the Elks to do all the cleanup instead of just a portion of it.

Membership-To date, 116 members have paid their 2015 dues and there are 65 non-renewals, of which 4 are businesses/individuals that are no longer in business or here. LeAnne said Amy will send out second notices to the non-renewals next week and then it will be time for directors to pitch in and make phone calls/personal visits. She also suggested the board think about recruiting more individual memberships to try and reach the 200-member goal in 2015.

New Business:

Jeff welcomed and congratulated new directors Pete Hetherington and Neil McCormick (absent) and returning directors Juanita Meeks and LeAnne Kavanagh. Jeff said Neil’s father, Burke, indicated Neil would not be able to serve due to his new job obligations, but the board will wait to appoint a replacement until they receive a formal resignation from Neil. A motion was made by Sissy, seconded by Stephen, and unanimously approved to appoint the four di-

rectors.

Gail made a motion to retain the slate of officers for the coming year, which was seconded by Juanita and approved unanimously. Continued as the executive committee are President Jeff Billman, Vice President Steven Hjartarson, Secretary LeAnne Kavanagh and Treasurer Sissy Nygaard. Calcie DeZort will fill in as secretary in LeAnne's absence.

Committee assignments for 2015 are as follows:

Banquet-Jeff and Steven; Budget-Sissy; Business Appreciation Days-Steven and Juanita; Chamber Up-Pat; Economic Development-Jeff; Festival of Lights Social-Juanita and Gail; Festival of Tress-Calcie and Adrienne; Glacier Country-Robert Carette; Lewis and Clark Festival-Sissy, Pete and Gail; Make a Difference Day-Calcie; Membership-LeAnne; Shakespeare in the Park-Juanita; Nominating-Steven; Port Authority-LeAnne and Pat; Tournament-Gail; Website-Pete; Welcome-Adrienne; Business Recognition-LeAnne and Jeff; Bylaws Revision-LeAnne; Golf Tournament-Jeff, Pat and Pete; Christmas Lights-Jeff and Pat; Christmas Bazaar-Calcie and Adrienne.

Jeff reminded all committee chairs to get their annual reports to Amy or himself ASAP for the Jan. 14 annual meeting. He also suggested the board may wish to consider holding the annual meeting later in the future, which would need to be addressed under bylaw revisions. Lunch will be served and it will be advertised as "free" the reminder to members in hopes of attracting better attendance.

LeAnne passed out suggestions for portions of the bylaws that appear to be in need of revision and asked board members to review and come prepared to discuss/propose revisions next month.

Sissy will email out budget information to the board members for review, discussion and possible approval in February.

Old Business:

Shop Local-Amy announced Tomas Texidor was the \$200 Chamber Gift Certificate grand prize winner. He will also receive a Chamber penguin t-shirt. The weekly winners in the promotion each received a gift certificate and t-shirt. The promotion was well received by shoppers and businesses and should be continued next year.

Orthodontist Recruitment-Amy reported Dr. Steve Lowery suggest the Chamber give Dr. West a deadline to let us know whether or not he intended to open a branch office here. Amy suggested a date of Feb. 1 and if Dr. West decides not to open a branch office here then the Chamber will move forward in recruiting another orthodontist.

Reminders:

The next Chamber up will be Jan. 13 from 5:30-7 p.m. at NRMC.

The Chamber's Annual Meeting is Jan. 14, from noon to 1 p.m. at GEC.

LeAnne Kavanagh
Secretary/Director