

**Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes**  
**March 4, 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:** Joe Lilienthal (Glacier Care Center) and Keelie Montalban (GEC).

**Regular Business:**

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Billman. The minutes from the Feb. 7 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 February 2015 were reviewed. See attached.

Balances were reported as follows: \$9,618.36 Chamber Checking Account; \$13,302.49 Economic Development Checking Account; \$7,418.99 Buckle Account; Lewis and Clark Committee-\$ 7,402.96 (checking) and \$11,187.78 (money market).

Amy pointed out there was a substantial Chamber merchandise purchase this month in preparation for the upcoming Lewis and Clark Festival/All Class Reunion. Plans are in the works to provide reunion attendees with a \$20 voucher to be used to purchase Chamber merchandise, which will be reimbursed by the CBEFAA. Juanita moved the financial report be accepted with Adrienne seconding the motion and all voting in favor of the motion.

**Committee updates:**

**Economic Development**-Jeff reported the committee is still in a holding pattern until we hear about Brownsfield Grant application for the Public Drug building in May. There has still been interest expressed by people wanting to rent the space once it is ready. Amy informed the board the search for an orthodontist will resume with the news Dr. West is not interested in opening a satellite clinic here. She will send out a letter to the 40-50 orthodontists in the state inviting them to open a satellite clinic here. Jeff suggested the Chamber may want to look into ways to work with the local school district to cultivate a better-trained work force. Gail said the school district would be interested in such a partnership as they are having trouble getting students to even do homework. Gail and Jeff will pursue this.

**Membership**-To date, 162 members have paid their 2015 dues. LeAnne continued to encourage the board to contact their “non-renewed” businesses and recruit individual memberships to try and reach the 200-member goal in 2015.

**Banquet**-Amy said Hank Williams’ is a pricey \$300,000 so no luck in having him come and perform his “Cut Bank” song at the banquet. The writer and producer of the “Cut Bank” movie have also declined her offer to speak at the banquet so she will contact the Crawford Brothers to see if they are still available April 18 or April 25 for a western theme banquet. Scott Fritz will cater the event and the Chamber will pay two people to take tickets throughout the event. This year’s profits will go to community projects.

**Lewis and Clark Festival**-Sissy reported the next meeting of the committee is March 11 at the Chamber office at noon. Plans are progressing. The committee is looking for nominees for grand marshal, particularly a local or area WWII veteran. The marathon/half-marathon event has been moved to Saturday and the alumni golf tourney will be Friday. There was some discussion about the Chamber golf tourney being Sunday or possibly moving to a later date.

**Shakespeare in the Parks**-Juanita said this year’s performance will be Wednesday, Aug. 5, and the cost will be \$1,300 if we house the members of the troupe. The Business Appreciation

Days BBQs will also be held that week, with the Cut Bank one held in conjunction with the SIP performance.

**Old Business:**

**Photo Contest**-Amy said there were 50 entries in the contest and thanked the board for judging. She will compile the results and send the information out to the board. Due to printer issues, she was unable to present the information at the meeting.

**New Business:**

Deadline for nominations for the 2015 Citizen of the Year will be April 1. The community will be invited to submit nominations, based on the criteria outlined, and then the Executive Committee will meet and narrow the field to three names, which will be presented at the April board meeting. Names from 2014 will be considered as well as new nominees.

Jeff and LeAnne presented the Business Improvement Award to Royal Real Estate and the photo will be in the March 11 issue of the paper. Stockman Bank wishes to hold off until their landscaping is complete. Billman's Home Décor will be the next recipient honored for their residing of the warehouse on North Central.

On a motion by LeAnne, second by Jeff, and unanimous vote, the board authorized Amy to research smart phones and plans with data capabilities and purchase a phone and contract that best meets the needs of the Chamber. The board further authorized Amy to use the phone for her personal phone given she is "on call" for board member questions and other Chamber business during off hours.

Amy informed the board the Walking Trail Committee may be disbanding and is frustrated with the lack of progress and has asked the Chamber to take over the project. It was the feeling of the board that we can't undertake this at this time but the Chamber is willing to partner with another group—perhaps the Beautification Committee—to keep the project on track. Amy will organize a meeting of interested groups/agencies/leaders/individuals, etc., to further explore how to keep the project moving forward.

LeAnne and Amy have not had time to meet on the bylaw revisions.

**Reminders:**

The next Chamber up will be March 24 at the Cut Bank Elks and will be hosted by Sara Hofer and the Hi-Line Relay for Life Committee.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**LeAnne Kavanagh**  
**Secretary/Director**