

**Long Prairie Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors Meeting
February 2, 2010
4:30 pm City Hall**

1. Call To Order

President Becky Hillig called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm.

2. Roll Call

Board Present: Mike Wolters, Mary Schmidt, Roseann Hummel, Kathleen Nauber, Anita Rademacher, Denita Wisniewski, Dennis Breitenfeldt, Andrew Brown, Becky Hillig, Mark Poegel, Rebecca Best.

Board Absent: Mica Carlson, Toni Tebben, Joe Krueger, John Rachuy, Allan Ulbricht.

Guests: Gerry Ruda, Randy Neumann.

3. Approval of the January minutes and financial report.

After review, Kathy made the motion to approve the minutes, Anita seconded the motion, motion carried. After review, Kathy made the motion to approve the financial reports, Andrew seconded the motion, motion carried.

4. Guest Randy Neumann.

The Lake Charlotte Challenge scheduled for February 13th has been canceled due to horrible ice conditions from the rain. Will be hosting again in Long Prairie in 2011, Randy asked for the chamber's full support once again.

5. EDA Report: Julie Baum

Julie will be showing some office space to a potential professional business in the coming weeks. The incubator building is done and available for lease, the city council at its last meeting voted to name the building for marketing, the Prairie Business Development Center (PBDC). Julie handed out a work in progress brochure for the incubator building, will be creating a direct mail campaign to send them. Julie is hoping to invite the chamber board in March to have its meeting in the Incubator Building.

6. Tourism Commission: Julie Baum

The 2010 concerts are now booked. The next steps are the ads that need to be sold for the concert books as well as raising the funds for the entertainment.

7. Project Reports:

- Community Gardens. The committees have met and have completed the guidelines for the gardens, will be hosting a community meeting in April for people to sign up for a garden.
- Trails Committee: The Active Living by Design group will be here on February 9th to make a presentation to the community regarding the walk ability of our community and suggestions on how to improve.
- Leaders meeting: This event went very well. Discussed the community calendar and utilizing this more. Also we need to gain access to the public television that is assigned to Long Prairie, would like to start putting events and items on this as well. Cross marketing of the organizations was also discussed. The chamber will be hosting another one this summer.
- Prairie Fest: The dates for this years festival is June 17th-June 20th. Some of the events being planned are a scholarship program and not a pageant, that way we can get more kids involved. Thursday night are the Fireworks, Friday is Hairball, Saturday will be the Rodeo and Sunday is the parade.

8. Government Reports:

- County: The commissioners revisited the Veterans Scenic Drive; hopefully everyone is now satisfied with the background work and will be moving forward with a decision. The commissioners recently met with our state representatives regarding our concerns and other items for the county. Gerry also discussed the MN Pollution Control guidelines on septic systems in the rural area, this needs to be address soon as it does affect all county residents. The University of MN, Crookston campus' Kevin Cooper came before the commissioners and presented a working plan for the Todd County Development Corporation to move forward with a new plan for the Economic Development in Todd County. The steering committee for this project will begin in February. In March the commissioners will receive the report regarding the spaces utilized by the county including the old courthouse, from this plan goals can be set to move forward.

9. Old Business.

Andrew mentioned that Todd County was not chosen for the first rounds of the Federal Broadband Grants, we need to do some more work on the grant for the next round, including receiving more support for the project.

10. New Business.

- The board has been looking at the benefit of chamber bucks to its members; there was discussion around not redeeming the chamber bucks if you are not a member of the chamber. Some concern surrounding this is that the consumer might suffer, or that some of the businesses that purchase them for their employees will not buy as many. The next step potentially will be to charge a 10% fee for anyone redeeming the bucks. This is probably the best way to address this as well as a better investment for the members, this also encourages the non-members to join the chamber. The board will make this decision at its March meeting.
- The US Census are working very hard to find workers for Todd County, Julie stated that at this time they are in desperate need. Julie will try to get the word out to more people; she also encouraged anyone in the room to sign up.
- Andrew mentioned that First Baptist is hosting Dave Ramsey's Financial classes at First Baptist, this is a 13 week course and the cost \$100 per family for materials.
- Anita mentioned that the hospital/nursing home is now going by its new name. CentraCare Health Systems-Long Prairie.

11. Adjourn

Becki made the motion to adjourn, Mark seconded the motion, motion carried.