

**Long Prairie Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors Meeting
March 2, 2010
4:40 p.m. City Hall**

1. Call To Order

President Becky Hillig called the meeting to order at 4:40 pm.

2. Roll Call

Board Present: Kathleen Nauber, Dan Swenson, Denita Wisniewski, Dennis Breitenfeldt, John Rachuy, Allan Ulbricht, Becky Hillig, Rebecca Best, Mark Poegel.

Board Absent: Mica Carlson, Toni Tebben, Mike Wolters, Mary Schmidt, Roseann Hummel, Joe Krueger, Andrew Brown.

Guests: Jon Kringen, Jamie St. George.

3. Guest Jamie St. George (Hands of Hope)

Jamie came and spoke to the board about the business assistance that Hands of Hope can offer our local businesses, from employee issues to crime. Julie will assist Jamie with names and numbers of the appropriate people to contact.

4. Approval of the February minutes and financial report.

On the financial report Julie stated that the bill for Network Solutions was for a three year renewal of longprairie.org. This is split 3-ways between the chamber, EDA and tourism. 80% of the dues have come in and we have 1 new member.

Allen made the motion to approve the financial report, Becky seconded the motion, motion carried. After review, John made the motion to approve the February 2nd meeting minutes, Kathy seconded the motion, motion carried.

5. Tourism Commission: Julie

Met last evening, all the concerts for the summer has been booked and the sponsors for them have been secured; now the group needs to raise some money to pay for the concerts. They do this by selling advertising in the concert books; the price is economical to the businesses. The group looked at the donation portion of their budget, some changes need to be made regarding accountability from whom they donate to, to goals of the commission are to market Long Prairie, outside of Long Prairie. The Lodging tax seems to be lower than in the past, that is something that needs to be addressed as well.

6. EDA Report: Lyle

Had some calls regarding the Incubator building, in the spring the EDA and city are looking at having an open house and ribbon cutting at the building. Lyle and Julie were asked to be a part of the restructuring of the Todd County EDA for a few months, should be ready to present to county commissioners in May the suggested direction for the county to follow.

7. Project Reports.

- Trails Committee. Invited the Active Living by Design group here to do a presentation to residents in the community, also took a walk around and audited some of the good and bad of walking in the community. The trails committee now will be putting together a plan for our community regarding safe walking.

- Community Gardens. The garden committee is working hard to get everything completed for registrations and regulations of the garden. They are working now on the planning stages for a handicap ramp, raised beds and a shelter. The brochure and posters have been created and will be distributed in April. 30 of the garden plots have been reserved so far.
- Broadband. The group needs to regroup and create a plan to move forward.
- Prairie Fest. June 17-20, 2010. Many events scheduled for this year, all the events are listed on the website www.prairiefest.net. The committee is also working on the donation portion of the event, the more money they make, the more scholarship money that can be distributed.

8. Government Reports

- Long Prairie-Grey Eagle Schools. Looking at budget reductions and what the state will be sending, or not sending, at this time it is better than expected. Our school district does have some reserve funds, but do not want to deplete this money. Linda Gohman is the new school board member, replacing Loren Roe. There were 3 very good applicants. Jon discussed the potential of a coop with Sauk Centre and Melrose for the wrestling program because of declining participation from the students. The Grey Eagle school building is up for sale if anyone is interested in purchasing.

9. Chamber Bucks

At the last board meeting it was asked of the board to look at the chamber buck program and decide whether some changes needed to be made. At this time chamber bucks can be spent at any location in Long Prairie, the down side to this is that the members pay for the service with their dues, this money is used for accounting and printing of the chamber bucks, there is no penalty for non-chamber members to also use this program. The board had two potential ideas for the bucks.

1. Charge non-members a small fee to cash them in. 2. Chamber bucks can be used at chamber members only. The question posed: Is it fair? After a long discussion period Allan made a motion to leave the program as is with no changes, Kathleen seconded the motion, motion carried.

10. Adjourn.

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