

The mission of the Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce is to promote, educate & support a vital business community while enhancing and nurturing the livability and community connectedness of the area.

Minutes : Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce

Current Executive Board Members: Chair- Josiah Tonder, Vice Chair Jeremiah Zahnow, Secretary- Clara Vancura, Treasurer- Denita Wisniewski

Board Members: Todd Ecker, Andy Otremba, Sarah Amundson, Micki Czech

Wednesday, April 26, 2023 – Monthly MEETING 03:30 PM @ City Hall

Board Members in Attendance: Jeremiah Z, Clara V, Sarah A, Micki C, Josiah T

MEETING

1. Call to Order/Roll Call: 3:32pm
2. Approval of agenda/additions/deletions: Clara made motion to approve agenda as written, seconded by Sarah. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Approval of Minutes: Sarah made motion to approve minutes as written, seconded by Clara. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Financial Report
 - a. Currently very positive and on budget
 - b. Plan to speak with Phil for transferring in additional monies for cushion.
 - c. Unsure how many members are still in need of paying dues. Lu will bring to next meeting
 - d. Clara made motion to approve financials as reviewed, seconded by Sarah. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Introduction of new Community/Chamber Members: None
6. Director's Report-

Facebook- March/April new followers 49

Webpage- Featuring our Own-

Women in Business...

Went over very well with great engagement (see below)

Next article: MSR grant - 2nd round



WOMAN OWNED & CO-OWNED BUSINESSES IN THE LP AREA: In honor of Women's History month & International Women's Day in March, the City of Long Prairie's website is featuring an article on Women owned and co-owned businesses in the Long Prairie Area. - SEE LIST BELOW! *If your woman owned or co-owned business is not the list,...

Thu, Mar 30

Post reach Engagement
8,731 3,069

7- Old Business

- a. Growth Zone update – Launch week- May 8th
 - a. Soft launch vs. Big launch – Josiah recommended starting more slowly
 - b. Mid June – will need to schedule some lessons for members for them to update their information/hub
- b. Upcoming Events updates:
 - a. Networking events – Learning Luncheon tomorrow on Mental Health in the Workplace

- i. May learning Luncheon – Alexandria Technical College programming, will be held at MN National Bank
 - b. Cinco de Mayo coming quickly on April 30th
 - i. Still needing additional volunteers
 - c. Prairie Days
 - i. Already ahead of schedule for obtaining donations
 - ii. Food vendors already calling and a few set-up
 - iii. Bands are all scheduled
 - iv. Had previously discussed “Taste the Prairie” with Amber
 - v. A few other events
 - d. Concert in the Park
 - i. Marketing Poster finished yesterday
 - ii. All bands set
 - iii. All costs covered at this point through donations and Grant
 - e. MS Tram – July 27th
 - i. Lodging - Micki working with getting all potential options listed
 - ii. Bikers are already booking their lodging
 - iii. Still need to go over fairgrounds with the maintenance staff for electricity ect.
- c. Fundraising efforts
 - a. \$2,075 left to raise for Cinco de Mayo
 - b. \$11,250 left to raise for Prairie Days
- d. Tourism \$ ask for marketing costs
 - a. Lu working on this still for the City Council and plans to meet with City Administrator to review
- e. Discussion about our core values & mission statement
 - a. Currently:
 - i. Promoting Chamber Members
 - ii. Community Collaboration
 - iii. Information and Resource Hub
 - iv. Networking development
 - b. New: Promoting and Connecting Chamber Members, Information and Resource Hub, Community Enhancement
 - c. New Mission Statement: The mission of the Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce is to promote chamber members while enhancing the livability and connectedness of the community.

8- New Business

- a. New board members:
 - a. Chris Amundson replacing Sarah Amundson. Motion made by Clara to accept the resignation of Sarah from the board, seconded by Jeremiah. Motion carried with one nay.
 - b. Greg Standafer
 - c. Amy Allen
 - d. Lu has asked Juan Chavez to be on the board and he has declined.
 - e. Dattrick Mitchell
- b. Blue Cross Blue Shield of MN grant explanation
 - a. Lakewood Health has been working on “Todd County Promotores” – a project that encourages health in the Latino community

- b. Budget in the grant is being reviewed.
- c. The grant would support the Welcome Center with up to \$40,000 over two years
- d. Not sure when the final decision for the grant will be given. Waiting to hear more.

8- Adjourn 4:37pm

Notes taken by Clara V.

Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce

2023 Strategic Goals

1. Increase Chamber Membership
 - a. Secure **15** new members in either Long Prairie or the surrounding area.
 - b. Show non-members the value of membership by introducing them to the Chamber Website, Facebook page and Membership Benefits flyer.
2. Retain Current Membership –
 - a. Make members feel valued by visiting and calling. Focus on connecting with at least 5 dormant members each month to check-in and remind them of the available membership benefits.
 - b. Promote and share business events and content via the chamber website, Facebook, GMLP Breakfasts, radio, emails etc.
On going
3. Brand the LPACC as the information Hub of Long Prairie
 - a. Send out **Bi-weekly** emails utilizing direct links for advertisements and events.
On going
 - b. Update the chamber website monthly to ensure it is an efficient and effective way to connect the community with resources
On going
4. Organize Community Development Opportunities
 - a. Facilitate a minimum of 3 classes/workshops per year on various topics. Events can be either in person or virtual.
5. Budget
 - a. Establish a budget committee to meet quarterly to discuss financials.
 - b. Ensure community events are budget positive.

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