

The mission of the Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce is to promote Chamber members while enhancing the livability and connectedness of the community.

## **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, Micki Czech

Board Members in Attendance: Josiah T, Denita W, Clara V, Micki C, Jeremiah Z

Guest in attendance: Amy Allen (potential to join board)

**Wednesday, June 28, 2023 – Monthly MEETING 03:30 PM @ City Hall**

### **MEETING**

**1-Call to Order/Roll Call: 3:31pm**

**2- Approval of agenda/additions/deletions: Motion to approve as written made by Clara, second by Denita. Motion carried unanimously.**

**3- Approval of Minutes, additions: Motion to approve May minutes made by Denita, second by Jeremiah. Motion carried unanimously.**

**4- Financial Report – Motion made to approve financial report as presented by Denita, second by Jeremiah. Motion carried unanimously.**

New grant obtained from Region 5 for the Welcome Center \$5,000: to make cultural cooking video's. Elizabeth Quillo is making the video's and she is taking responsibility

Prairie Days: Donations \$28,850, cost \$21,700 with net income of \$7,100

Do we want to purchase something to have for Prairie Days in the future?

Yes – there was a lot of interest in the bean bag with the new board.

Having an additional board would be good for next year and place by beer garden.

Additional games may also be a good option in the future.

Should we set aside the money for next year to raise less money next year?

Use it to increase options for next year without need to raise additional funds?

**5- Introduction of new Community/Chamber Members: none currently**

**6- Director's Report-**

Facebook- May/June new followers 64

Webpage- Featuring our Own-

Beautifying Long Prairie

Community Health Worker grant – June

New Playground at Lake Charlotte - July

**7- Old Business**

- a. Growth Zone update
  - a. Plan to update and add events
  - b. Going through some membership issues
  - c. Very pleased with their support team

- b. Event updates:
  - a. Networking events
  - b. Prairie Days,
    - i. Unclear of amount of kids in attendance – will be figuring out with wrist bands
    - ii. Visual display for the dunk tank schedule
    - iii. Spacing of food trucks – last one kind of got “lost” in the background
      - 1. Additional tables in the one area “food court” style
      - 2. May need a food court set-up representative – Josiah volunteers
    - iv. Directions/Pricing sheet in Spanish as well as English
      - 1. Letting “food court” people know of our Latin influence so they could translate their menu’s before coming
    - v. Water for volunteers
    - vi. Breaks for caricature/face painting – have a sign for “be back in 10 minutes”
    - vii. Next year change back to having a 9-11pm Mexican band
  - c. MS Tram
    - i. Volunteer sign up coming
    - ii. Thursday need to have volunteers starting 9:30AM through 2:30pm
    - iii. Limited volunteers needed from 2:30-6pm
    - iv. Micki making a flyer for things to do and restaurants that can be visited
    - v. Are chamber members fully aware of the people coming? Have been given notice with the MS Tram fliers placed at businesses.
      - 1. Send a message to our chamber restaurants to make them aware of the coming people. Lu will be starting with emails to them.
    - vi. How do we shine a light on our diverse population and businesses?
      - 1. Could we ask some of the restaurants if they would like to be at the fair grounds? There may not be enough people who would want to stay at the fair grounds rather than coming downtown. See above for alerting Restaurants of the coming people.
  - d. Volunteers for Events: Concert in the Park & MS Tram

## 8- New Business

- a. Potential new board member: Chris Amundson replacing Sarah Amundson and Greg Standafer and Amy Allen
  - a. Motion made to accept Amy Allen to the LPACC by Jeremiah, second by Denita. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. NEW Upcoming events:
  - a. Public Forum – Commissioner position open
    - i. No date set for the forum
    - ii. Currently 4 candidates with Primary in August with Election in November
  - b. City Wide Garage Sales – August 4 & 5
    - i. KEYL will be advertising
    - ii. Lu having the flier updated
  - c. Career Fair - October 27
- c. MSR grant update
  - a. Grantee’s will be notified within the next month
- d. Lu going to visit community centers in the area including Paynesville, Perham

## 9- Adjourn

Our Core Values :

- ❖ Promoting and connecting Chamber Members
- ❖ Information and Resource Hub
- ❖ Community enhancement

## 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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