

Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce

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

AGENDA :

Current Executive Board Members:

Chair: Toby Polkinghorne, Vice Chair- Jeremiah Zahnow, Secretary/Treasurer- Denita Wisniewski

Board Members: Jodi Dixon, Todd Ecker, Andy Otremba, Chris Amundson, **Micki Czech - Resignation**

Wednesday, April 23, 2025 – Monthly MEETING 03:30 PM @ CITY HALL

Board Members Present: Toby, Denita, Jodi, & Lu

Guests Present:

MEETING

1-Call to Order/Roll Call: Tody at 3:33 pm

2- Approval of agenda/additions/deletions Motion to approve the agenda by Jodi, Second by Denita, Motion carried

3- Approval of Minutes, additions Motion to approve the minutes for March by Jodi, Second by Denita, Motion carried

4- Financial Report – Financials AHNB \$63,381.13, plus CD's \$41,809.26, MN Nation \$823.37, Money has been coming in for Prairie Day, Gross profit from 1st of January \$58,521.54. CD's renewed for 5 months at 4.20% at AHNB. Lu will sit down with Tom regarding the financials. Motion to approve Denita, Second by Jodi, Motion Carried.

5- Introduction of new Community/Chamber Members: Rewild: <https://rewildbrandstudio.com/about> ,

All in Common, Bolton Menk, Angeles Construction & Cleaning, Childcare - Tia Nathaly LLC

11 new members this year. All in Common - new clothing store in Hart Mall, Bolton Menk works for the city, Childcare - Nathaly is opening a day care, she did break her foot, and is out 3 weeks. Absolutely Sunshine signing up as a listing. MeadowPlace are joining but not official yet.

6- Director's Report-

7- Old Business

Membership renewal report

*\$40,613.18 have been paid so far. Open Invoices \$4,444.27. 90% have told Lu they are renewing.

Chamber Event reports & updates:

Networking events

*BK Blooms is having an afterhours tomorrow. Non profit of choice is Pink Flamingos who help out cancer patients. Verna Toenyan is going to set up for May or June for Hill Top Kitchen. Initiative Foundation will do July to be held at Viva Bar. They are going to have food vendors at the bar and the Initiative Foundation will be speaking.

Career Fair - Report

*Surveys are back, and planning for an October Career Fair.

Community Gardens - [Guidelines](#)

***Please promote the Community Gardens. Just took the plan to Lopez to get the Latinos to sign up. The only problem is the deer but people have been putting up fences. Daniella is making up an online form.**

Prairie Days – June 7th – update – Fundraising & Volunteers

*\$12,000 raised for Prairie Days. Letters went out for fundraising opportunities. 5k and 1 k, table tennis, and pickleball tournament are new to Prairie Days. No band from 9 to midnight. Both restaurants have bands or DJs

Latino Festival - July 26th - 3-10 pm in place of Cinco de Mio. Money has already been raised for this. One item will be a rock climbing wall.

[Chamber Bucks](#) – click for updated webpage

Order form: <https://forms.gle/pu1xZU5pCHU6aqxt8>

*A form for purchasing Chamber Bucks. Denita has tested the link.

8- New Business

Micki Czech – resignation

*Micki has stepped down because of the Tourism having only one on the Chamber.

Consent agenda idea

*Lu is still working on this.

What does it mean to be a Chamber board member?

*Lu sent out 2 documents explaining what it means to be Chamber Board Member. We should come up with a conflict of interest policy. How do you find good board members? By the next meeting, can we narrow the bullet points of the ethics policy. Do we have any suggestions for other new Board Members? We came up with a list of possible board members.

9- Adjourn: Motion made to adjourn by: Jodi Seconded by: Denita Meeting adjourned at:4:20 pm

Our Core Values:

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

Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce

2025 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 Networking events monthly