

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

Wednesday, August 27, 2025 – Monthly MEETING 03:30 PM @ CITY HALL

Members Present: Jeremiah, Todd, Denita, Jodi

MEETING

1-Call to Order/Roll Call: Jeremiah at 3:34 pm

2- Approval of agenda/additions/deletions & minutes

- Changes to the agenda and/or minutes: None
- On a Motion by Todd and seconded by Jodi the Agenda was approved.
- On a Motion by Todd and seconded by Jodi, the minutes from the June 26, 2024 Board meeting were approved.

3- Financial Report – Financials CD update- September 15, Renewal

- Balance of General Fund at American Heritage Bank: \$53,260.23
- Balance of CD's at American Heritage Bank: \$42,560.53
- Balance in Chamber Bucks Account at MN National Bank: \$1,553.13
- CD's #90106 (\$15,981.74) and #90107 (\$10,654.49) are maturing on September 15, 2025. AHNB currently have a 5 month special at 4.2% and 10 month special at 4.0%.
 - Short \$220 on the Latino Festival
 - Prairie Days - made \$1500 more in donations. \$34,929, needed about \$32,000. Lu raised about \$5,000 more than 2024.
 - On a motion by Jodi, and second by Todd to approve financial report.
 - On a motion by Todd and second by Jodi to renew the CD at the current 5 month rates.
 - Arts & Craft Show - over 100 booths are rented for 2025- total of 155 spaces. Most are corresponding via e-mail.

4- Introduction of new Community/Chamber Members:

- DW Jones Management:
- Star Bank: from Eagle Bend
- 7 House Bar & Grill: Former Red Lounge
- Angeles Cleaning: Myra was part of Angeles Construction.
- Sol le Vida - Elizabeth Quillo
- 20 new members in 2025

5- Director's Report-

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6- Old Business

Chamber Event reports & updates:

Networking events –

- TOMORROW August 28 –Nursing Home: Breakfast with western omelets with potatoes to promote the nursing home.
- (report on IF networking event): July event - over 100 people there. At least 15 people from the Initiative Foundation. 18 vendors. Initiative Foundation paid each of the vendors for being there, and covered the cost of the food.

- September open:
- October 9th Little Falls & LP at Back Forty: Collaborating with Little Falls. Back Forty is a member of both chambers. 4:30 to 6:30 pm
- October 21 Business Appreciation with Dan's Prize: EDA/Chamber event.
- November - CERTS - talking about solar for residential and business. (2 sessions)

Latino Festival – Report- July 26, 2025 about 700 visitors

- Some issues with the drinking - and drinking in the streets.

Chamber Concert - Monroe Crossing - August 12 report

- over 300 people - \$1200 in donations. It was a reunion for the people who come to the concerts.

7- New Business

Future for Chamber Concerts

- Lu has been asked if we can bring back the concert in the park series and do through the Chamber. On a motion by Jodi and second by Todd to allow Lu to discuss with the City for the Chamber to take over the concerts in the park year by year – 3 for and 1 against

Director Vacation – September 2 – 5:

- Lu will be sending Daniella items that she receives.

Planning for the year

- Daniella and Lu are going through the year. Need prizes for Homecoming and Halloween trick or treat.

8- Adjourn

- On a Motion by Todd and seconded by Jodi, the meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Our Core Values:

Promoting and connecting Chamber Members

Information and Resource Hub

Community enhancement

Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce

2025 Strategic Goals

Increase Chamber Membership

Secure 15 new members in either Long Prairie or the surrounding area.

Show non-members the value of membership by introducing them to the Chamber Website, Facebook page and Membership Benefits flyer.

Retain Current Membership –

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.

Promote and share business events and content via the chamber website, Facebook, GMLP Breakfasts, radio, emails etc.

On going

Brand the LPACC as the information Hub of Long Prairie

Send out Bi-weekly emails utilizing direct links for advertisements and events.

On going

Update the chamber website monthly to ensure it is an efficient and effective way to connect the community with resources

On going

Organize Networking events monthly