

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: Todd Ecker, Andy Otremba, , Chris Amundson, Micki Czech

Members Present: Toby Polkinghorne, Denita Wisniewski, Todd Ecker, Micki Czech

Guest: Jodi Dixon

Wednesday, March 26, 2025 – Monthly MEETING 03:30 PM @ CITY HALL

MEETING

1-Call to Order/Roll Call: Called to order by Toby at 3:35 pm

2- Approval of agenda/additions/deletions

- Motion by Todd, Seconded by Denita to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

3- Approval of Minutes, additions

- Motion by Todd, Seconded by Denita to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

4- Financial Report – Financials

- Prairie Days donations are coming in. \$5,000 in memberships left to o. \$67,318.50 in AHNB. CD's #90106 and #90107 are coming due on April 15, 2025. Motion made by Todd, seconded by Toby to renew the CD's at the 7 month term at 4.26%. If this rate is not available on April 15, 2025, Denita is authorized to renew at the term with the highest rate. Motion carried. Motion by Todd, Seconded by Denita to approve the financials. Motion carried.

5- Introduction of new Community/Chamber Members: Initiative Foundation, Lakeland Dental, Penmac Staffing Services, Northern Pines

- Hearts United in Better Days Treatment

6- Director's Report-

- Initiative Foundation is helping Lu to set up childcare providers membership. Initiative Foundation will pay \$500 to Chamber for helping set up.

7- Old Business

- a. Membership renewal report
- b. Chamber Event reports & updates:
- c. **Networking events**
 - February – CentraCare – report
 - o Big turnout – Countryside catered. Working with Sourcewell to do a Career Pathway Open House.
 - March- William Dingman - This Thursday 4:30 – 6:30pm

Career Fair - click on slide show link for list of careers: [Descriptions 2025 Career Fair](#)

- 8 colleges, 3 military & about 5 employers in the Gym and 35 classrooms with business or non-profit reps. Held on Friday March 28th
- April 2nd – Healthcare Career Fair at CentraCare

Community Gardens – Getting the gardens ready. The city paid to fix water problems.

Prairie Days – June 7th – update – Fundraising

- \$5000 raised –Food vendors will be charged \$50.
- d. Chamber Bucks – update
- New signs for Chamber members to display. Testimonials coming in. Working on Google form for ordering Chamber Bucks.
- e. Tourism - Concert in the Park – vote
- Chris Amundson had suggested the Chamber sponsor a concert at the February meeting. Chris is serving as the Tourism Director. Discussion followed. Tourism will take over duties Lu had been doing. We cut \$7,000 from our budget so it was felt that we don't have additional funds at this time to donate for a concert. Central Bi is donating \$1000 to Concerts in the Park to cover the difference. Toby made a motion, Jeramiah seconded, the Chamber will not make a donation to of paying for a concert. Motion carried. Micki abstained. (Micki is on the Tourism Board).
 - Per Tourism by-law, only 1 tourism committee member can be on the Chamber Board. Further discussion on this will be tabled until the next meeting as to who from the Tourism Committee will be on the Chamber Board.

8- New Business

- a. New Computer- updates & AI
- b. Board workshop ideas & Handbook- Sourcewell & IF – discussion
 - Deferred to next meeting. Proposing 9 meetings per year instead of 12. Possibly skip July and August. We could decide month by month. February is a slow month.
- c. Jodi Dixon- New Chamber Board Member vote: Passed

9- Adjourn

- Motion made by Toby and seconded by Jeramiah to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.

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