

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

Board Members Present: Toby Polkinghorne, Todd Ecker, Denita Wisniewski, Chris Amundson

Wednesday, September 24, 2025 – Monthly MEETING 03:30 PM @ CITY HALL

MEETING

1-Call to Order/Roll Call:

Toby at 3:33 pm

2- Approval of agenda/additions/deletions & minutes

- Changes to the agenda and/or minutes:
- On a Motion by Todd and seconded by Chris, the Agenda was approved with no changes.
- On a Motion by Todd and seconded by Denita, the minutes from the August 27, 2025 Board meeting were approved.

3- Financial Report – Financials

- Balance of General Fund at American Heritage National Bank as of 08/30/2025 - \$51,146.99
- Balance of CD's at American Heritage National Bank - \$43,029.48
- CD #90106 and #90107 renewed for 5 months at the special rate of 4.0%
- Balance of Chamber Bucks Account at MN National Bank - \$1,553.13
- Profit and Loss through August 31st - Lu made some changes to Quickbooks \$54,000 for donations, membership \$38,000, Arts & Crafts \$10,000 - Lu will do one week of advertising for the local newspapers. Looking for 2 advertisers on the posters. Expenses for Prairie Days is off on the balance sheet. Lu is going to adjust to make these balance.
- On a Motion by Todd and seconded by Toby, the financial statement was approved.

4- Introduction of new Community/Chamber Members:

Oasis Skin Grove LLC Applied as a listing on the directory. They have not sent the check yet

QUESTION: Star Bank Joined for the networking events. Banks in LP pay \$1300 per year for their dues. General Membership would be \$235 per year. On a Motion by Todd to accept Star Banks membership at \$235 seconded by Toby, motion passed.

5- Director's Report-

6- Old Business

Chamber Event reports & updates:

Networking events – Report: August 28 –Nursing Home

RSVP is always tricky. About 20 people attended.

September open, October 9th Little Falls & LP at Back Forty:

Little Falls & LP Chamber - Back Forty is member of both Chambers. She is going to serve fresh bread and soup.

October 18th - Rural Voice -at the golf course - talking about the community

Clean Energy Research Team - Dec 4th - Meeting with people on how clean energy works. Dec 11th will be a smaller group for the people that are serious about doing the solar power.

October 21 Business Appreciation with Dan's Prize

7 - 8 am breakfast - Country Club

Summer Concerts

Candace spoke with Chris. Chirs is ok with the Chamber taking it on. Tourism goals are different than the Concerts in the park. We will be toning it down on the number of concerts.

7- New Business

Planning for the year

Community benefits - Lu will talk to the Lions Club. The Lions Club in other towns work the town festivals. Lu is going to ask for a commitment for a donation for Prairie Days, and see what they will give her for the Latino and Concerts in the Park.

Not going to do the City Wide Garage Sales in 2026. Only had a handful of people sign up.

Community Gardens - Lu would like to hand off to someone else. 19 gardens in 2025. Sentence to Serve do the mowing. It is not full. Cost of water was down in 2025.

Downtown flowers and decorations - Lu would be happy to get rid of it. The City does the watering.

Homecoming - Need judges for the parade.

8- Adjourn

On a Motion by Toby and seconded by Todd, the meeting was adjourned at 4:16 pm .

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

