

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, May 28, 2025 – Monthly MEETING 03:30 PM @ CITY HALL

Members Present: Jeremiah, Todd, Denita, Chris

MEETING

1-Call to Order/Roll Call:

- 3:30 by Jeremiah

2- Approval of agenda/additions/deletions

- On a motion by Todd, and seconded by Chris, the Board approved the agenda.

3- Approval of Minutes, additions

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- On a Motion by Todd and seconded by Denita, the Board reviewed and approved the April 23, 2025 minutes.

4- Financial Report – Financials

- Current Balances as of April 30, 2025:
 - AHNB – General Fund - \$72,651.76
 - AHNB – 3 Certificate of Deposits - \$41,809.26
 - MN National Bank – Chamber Bucks - \$1,543.13
- Profit of \$79,528.77, up from the year before. \$39,812.77 net income - includes donations, craft fair and membership. \$3250 to raise for Prairie Days. Lu has businesses that will still donate.
- On a Motion by Todd and seconded by Denita, the Board reviewed and approved the Financials.

5- Introduction of new Community/Chamber Members:

- Eagle Bend Community Circle: Liela Oliver
- Absolutely Sunshine: Massage therapist. She has a listing
- Penmac Staffing: from Wadena
- Akira Torres Cleaning services: House cleaning services
- Northstar Plumbing: Pete Nelson
- LP Health Care Center/Meadow Place: Nursing Home - joined together

6- Director's Report-

- Lu has already reached her 15 new members for 2025.

7- Old Business

Membership renewal report – Paid - \$42,825.69, Open invoices \$2,599.25

- 6 members will be paying but need to keep on them.

Chamber Event reports & updates:

Networking events –

- May 22 - Meadow Place – Awesome - Had 35-40 people. Verna was there to talk about Senior Housing.
- June 26 –July – Initiative Foundation – Viva Bar will be hosting.

Prairie Days –

- June 7th – update – Fundraising & Volunteers & work based learning – Lu is not concerned about the fund raising that needs to be finished. Volunteers are almost all filled. Worked based learning is always helpful, but they sign up a couple of days before. Chad and Lu are meeting on Friday to talk about electricity.

Latino Festival – CINCO DE MAYO-

- July 26, 2025 3-10pm – food, music, inflatables – We have \$3,000 from last year, raising another \$5,000 for bands and inflatables. Held between 1st & 2nd Street on Central Ave. Vendors will pay \$50 each. No charge to attend. Music - Mexican Dancers - They will do free will donations. Also some other bands of various

8- New Business

Director's vacation:

- July 14 – July 24 – Lu will be out of the office. We will pay her no extra hours.

Daniela's hourly wage increase?

- One year working for the Chamber
- She has been working on the Prairie Days website and has done an amazing job. Current wage is \$18, she works 10 hours per week. She does a very good tracking her time. Board would like to wait until we have more board members present to vote on it.

What does it mean to be a Chamber board member? See attachments

- Board responsibilities -
- Board meeting attendance - Lu would like permission to reword the removal part of Board members.
- Change the wording on the terms (minimum/maximum)
- Board members to help recruit new members - leave in
- Ethics policy -
- Keep as it is
- Board Member Agreement -
- Lu will update and bring back to the meeting

9- Adjourn

- **Motion to adjourn by: Todd and seconded by: Chris. Meeting adjourned at 4:15 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