

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

Members Present: Toby, Denita, Jodi, Todd, Chris

MEETING

1-Call to Order/Roll Call: at 3:30 by Toby

2- Approval of agenda/additions/deletions/minutes

- On a Motion by Todd and seconded by Jodi, the Agenda was approved

- On a Motion by Todd and seconded by Chris, the minutes from the May 28, 2025 Board meeting were approved

3- Financial Report – Financials

Balance in General Fund at American Heritage Bank: \$71,135.10

Balance of CD's at American Heritage Bank: \$42,560.53

Balance in Chamber Bucks account at MN National Bank: \$1,543.13

For January to May \$91,741, Net Income to end of May - 42,223.78. MN Power still owes \$3500 for the Prairie Days Donation. \$2600 calculated in for Lu's hours for Prairie Days.

Membership discussion: Lu has deleted open invoices. Open invoice of \$831.

We are changing insurance company because American Family Insurance has closed in Long Prairie. We are changing to Advantage 1 Insurance. They will get us a special policy for the Latino Festival.

- On a Motion by Todd and seconded by Jodi, the Financials were approved.

4- Introduction of new Community/Chamber Members:

Kylie Natural – She is selling hair products that she sells. She was at the Prairie Days Arts N Crafts Show. She will also possibly going to the November Arts & Crafts show.

Goal of 15 new members for the Chamber has been met already for the year.

5- Director's Report-

6- Old Business

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

Chamber Event reports & updates:

Networking events –

TOMORROW June 26 – Meadow Place, July – Initiative Foundation – see attached flyer

After hours from 5:30 to 6:30 at Meadow Place. Staff is very engaged with the Chamber - both at Meadow Place and the Nursing Home. Introducing what their services are. Possibly some of the residents will be there to eat with the people who come to the event.

Prairie Days –report

May move the dunking booth further by the food court. Craft sale would like to also be a little closer to the downtown area. Possibly look at 2nd St North from Central Ave to Hwy 27. Or possibly to the south on 2nd St South to alley. And Chevez parking lot. This year we made \$2,700 this year. Last year was \$2,500. We do not get any funds from the craft sale. He does not donate to Prairie Days. Car Club does not pay anything to be at the car show (Country Cruisers are Chamber members). Food vendors paid to be there, and they were happy with the turnout. Lu did turn away to a taco truck because of the Mexican restaurants. Next year we will charge Todd for the Craft Sale or he would pay a full membership.

Latino Festival – Update- July 26, 2025 3-10pm – food, music, inflatables

Have the posters done. Website is set up. Youth Mexican Dance and Adult Mexican Dance groups (3-4 pm), DJ (4 - 6 pm), Salsa band (6-8 pm) are coming. \$8000 in donations have come in so far. There is one band that is not necessarily family friend dressed. Lu has talked to Gabrier regarding the band.

Climbing wall and bouncy houses from 3 - 8. We still need to raise about \$5,000. Food vendors will be there. Lu will be asking for volunteers to hand out handbands for the kids so we know how many kids are coming in. We will be asking for a free will donation. The Dance Group is free will donation. Danniela's hourly wage increase? One year working for the Chamber

She is currently at \$18/hour. She works 10 hours per week. She keeps track of her hours even if she does things at home with putting events on the internet. Discussed \$1 per hour raise at May meeting. On a Motion by Todd and seconded by Denita, the Board approved a salary increase of \$1.00/hour for Danniela for a total hourly wage of \$19.00/hour. Motion carried

7- New Business

Chamber sponsored concert/s in August - ??

July 5th - Full day of activities.

Lu has been approached to do a couple of concerts in the park. People have approached regarding getting Monroe Crossing in August. Lu will do fund raising.

Tourism is going to have Miko Coudry on a Saturday in August.

Lu is directing people to talk to Chris if they have questions regarding Concert in the Park.

On a Motion by Jodi tand seconded by Toby, to have Lu to use Chamber time to raise money to get Monroe Crossing for a concert in August with the date to be determined.

8- Adjourn

On a Motion by Jodi and seconded by Denita, the meeting was adjourned at 4:28 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