

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

3rd Wednesday (due to Christmas Vacation), December 17, 2025 –MEETING 03:30 PM @ CITY HALL

Members Present: Jodi, Todd, Denita,

Guest: Theresa Sorenson

MEETING

1-Call to Order/Roll Call:

- 3:34 by Lu

2- Approval of agenda/additions/deletions & minutes

- Changes: October meeting by Todd/Jodi
- On a Motion by Jodi and seconded by Todd, Agenda approved.
- On a Motion by Todd and seconded by Jodi, Minutes approved.

3- Financial Report – Financials

- Comments: Jan - November \$178,584 total income, The net operating income \$26,580. Heidi and Lu went through the budget, and cleaned things up.
- AHNB General Fund Balance: \$45,013
- AHNB CD Balance: \$43,427.21
- MN National Chamber Bucks Balance: \$3,289
- On a Motion by Todd and seconded by Jodi, Financials approved.

4- Introduction of new Community/Chamber Members:

- Explore the Prairie: Matt Janke - used to own the game store. He is going to try to promote Long Prairie.
- Ring Studios: Joined for the listing - computer repairs

5- Director's Report-

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6- Old Business

Chamber Event reports & updates:

Networking events –

- Sending out requests to sign up for a networking event
- Solar & Clean Energy in January - MN Power - informational meeting. Todd County Resource Center - ribbon cutting yesterday, (formerly the Todd County Transfer Station),

NEW YEAR:

- Open house in December 18th: 9 to noon
- January – Solar & Clean Energy MN Power & CERTS:

Chamber organized events:

Report:

- Bright Light Festivities: Parade not as many floats.
- Arts & Craft Show: Steady flow of customers. Positive feedback on the survey. Cleared about \$8,500 after expenses

Fundraising has begun:

- ODR, Prairie Days, Latino Festival and Summer Concerts: Letters have gone out the the Lions, Rotary, etc to commit to fundraising. \$3,000 left to raise for the ODR. Total needed to be raised is \$60,000.
- All of the banks have been contacted and are set. \$15,000 needs to be raised for the bands, Motion made by Jodi, seconded to by Todd, to Lu to fund raise for he concerts.
- Increase in salary for the EDA –Report: City Council meeting on December 10:

7- New Business

Budget meeting in December 11 – Report:

- Heidi Sudbeck & another colleague
- They have met, and they will forward to the Board.

New Executive & Board members –

- need to recruit...see attached flyer
- Annual meeting is in Jan or Feb. On a Motion by Todd and seconded by Denita, to appoint Jodi as the replacement Chairman. On a Motion by Todd and seconded by Jodi for Lu to run the meeting when the Chairman is not available. On a Motion by Jodi and seconded by Todd to appoint Theresa Sorenson as a board member.

8- Adjourn

- On a Motion by Todd and seconded by Jodi, meeting adjourned at 4:30

Our Core Values:

Promoting and connecting Chamber Members

Information and Resource Hub

Community enhancement

Welcome New 2025 Chamber Members! (31)

Ona's Alterations LLC – Chasity Arnold (January)

Joann Schroeder (individual - January)

BK Blooms (February)

Prairie View Diesel (February)

Childcare - Tia Nathaly LLC (February)

Initiative Foundation (March)

Lakeland Dental(March)

Northern Pines Mental Health Center (March)

Hearts United (March)

Bolton & Menk (April)

All in Common (April)

Angeles Construction & Cleaning LLC (April)

Northstar Plumbing, Heating & Air (May)

Meadow Place Assisted Living (May)

Long Prairie Health Care Center – Nursing Home (May)

Penmac Wadena (May)

Akira Torres Cleaning (May)

Absolutely Sunshine (May)

Kylie Natural - Hair Products (June)

7 House Bar & Grill (August)

DW Jones (August)

Oasis Skin Grove LLC (August)

Sol de Vida (August)
Angeles Reyes Cleaning (September)
Star Bank (September)
Just For Kix – Long Prairie (October)
Edita's Bar & Grill (October)
Karls Recycling (November)
Ring Studios (November)
Explore the Prairie (December)

Dropped: (16...6 with specific reasons)

Long Prairie Chiropractic – slowing down
Rose City Signs – change in leadership
Flavor Shack
John Wiese Ford
Karina's Creations
VIDA- Vital Interpreting Delivering Access - dissolved
Luna's Country Foods
Battle Lake Outdoor - dissolved
Taqueria Chavez
Wireless World
Penny M-Barbershop
Valley View Assisted Living and Memory Care
Lakewood Health System – Medical Place is a member
Long Prairie Vision Center (Dr. Larson)
Prairie Ridge Inn
All This And More Events with Troy Lounsbury – personal reasons

Membership Benefits

- Promotion via Facebook,
- Electronic Sign on HWY 71 & Email
- Free website & FB job listings
- Newspaper announcement of your NEW membership
- Monthly Networking Opportunities
- Phone Referrals
- Bi-Weekly emails: Chamber News, Upcoming Events
- Membership Certificate and decal
- Chamber Bucks promotion- Keep it local
- Online Membership Directory
- Member brochure, business cards and flyer display in office lobby
- Career/Job Fairs and other employee search and retention programs
- No cost participation in Trick or Treat

Community Benefits

The Chamber organizes and fundraises for the following events & initiatives:

- Monthly Networking
- Prairie Days
- Latino Festival
- Community Gardens
- Downtown Flowers & Deco
- Harmony Park trees & scrubs
- City Wide Garage Sales
- Homecoming Parade float prizes
- Halloween Trick or Treat
- Bright Light Festivities
- Arts & Craft Show
- Outdoor Rink
- Public Forums

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