

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: Jodi Dixon, Vice Chair- Jeremiah Zahnow, Secretary/Treasurer- Denita Wisniewski

Board Members: Todd Ecker, Andy Otremba, Chris Amundson, Teresa Sorenson

4th Wednesday of the month, January 28, 2026 –MEETING 03:30 PM @ CITY HALL

Members Present: Denita, Todd, Chris (by phone), Theresa, Matt Jahnke (guest)

MEETING

1-Call to Order/Roll Call:

- 3:35 by Lu

2- Approval of agenda/additions/deletions & minutes

- On a Motion by Todd and second by Denita to approve the agenda. Motion carried
- On a Motion by Todd and seconded by Theresa, to approve the minutes. Motion carried

3- Financial Report – Financials

- Balances as of 12/31/25: American Heritage Natl Bank \$42,314.57, AHNB CD's \$43,427.21, Minnesota National Bank #3,664.09 (Chamber Bucks)
- Memberships collected to date are \$19,732.00 (approx \$45,000 should be the total for the year)
- Total assets \$107,146.85. December gross profit \$12,156.87 Total expenses \$15,295.66 - Part of that stems from the bouncy houses downpayment - Net profit for 2025 were \$25,059.25.
- Arts & Crafts brought in \$8,777 in 2025.
- On a Motion by Todd and seconded by Theresa, to approve the financials. Motion carried
- Budget: We have a total budget with an income of \$1,048. Lu is going to go through with Heidi from Tom Murch's office. There are a few minor adjustments to categories. We will table the budget until after the adjustments have been made. Lu will increase training to \$625.
- 2 CDs are coming due on Feb. 15th. On a Motion by Todd and seconded by Denita, to renew at the best rate at AHNB. Motion carried

4- Introduction of new Community/Chamber Members:

- Go Tacos: They now have a burrito buffet.

5- Director's Report-

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6- Old Business

Chamber Event reports & updates:

Networking events –January – Solar & Clean Energy MN Power & CERTS – CLEAN UP HELP

- Planning and zoning is coming regarding possibly changing ordinances regarding the solar power. At the Long Prairie Country Club - 7 house is catering. and Camphill cookies. Good group of people are signed up

– February 2nd Solar & ChildCare Appreciation (TCDC)

- Date is February 12th - February 25th at 6:30 - Childcare appreciation - want to do this annually. Anyone can come and have the meal, and learn about the childcares in the area. Proposal to Trinity - would share their space. They could have 3 childcare providers at Trinity. They would rent the space from Trinity. Part of the grant would be to reestablish the equipment.
- Verna wants to do one
- Camphill Village would like to do to one with Sauk Centre Chamber

Chamber organized events:

Fundraising: ODR, Prairie Days, Latino Festival and Summer Concerts – see attached flyers

- Lu is working on the fundraisings. All the flyers are ready to send out. Will go out in February.
- asking tourism to support Monroe Crossing & the Welcome Guide

- Chamber is taking on the Concerts in the Part. Tourism has paid for Monroe Crossing in the past. Lu will need to raise approximately \$13,000 for the rest of the concerts. 300-500 people come to the Monroe Crossing concert. Cost of Monroe Crossing is \$2750. Lu is going to ask the City about sponsoring Monroe Crossing as they have in the past.
- Chris said the Tourism committee will be doing the Welcome Center. On a Motion by Todd and Seconded by Theresa the Chamber will not be involved with the Welcome Guide this year. Motion carried.

Summer Concert list - See attached

- Concerts will be on Tuesday at 7 pm.

7- New Business

Vote in all officers and board members: New Executive & Board members – need to recruit...see attached flyer

- Jodi - Chairman, Jeremiah - Co-Chairman, Denita - Secretary/Treasurer
- On a Motion by Todd and seconded by Theresa to approve the Executive Board Members.
- Todd, Andy, and Chris will continue to be on the board. We have a couple of new possible Board Members. On a Motion by Denita and Seconded by Theresa to approve the current Board Members

February MCCE conference: Received conference scholarships

- MN Chamber of Commerce Executive conference. Lu received a scholarship. \$265 is the additional cost plus the hotel of approximately \$300.

February: Annual Meeting planning

- February 25th - 3:30 to 5:00 - Will be catered.

8- Adjourn

- On a motion by Todd and second by Denita to adjourn at 4:26 p.m.

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
- Career Fair
- 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