

The mission of the Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce is to promote, educate & support a vital business community while enhancing and nurturing the livability and community connectedness of the area.

Minutes

Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce

CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING December 12, 2017 4:30 pm at Ming Dynasty Restaurant – Downtown Long Prairie

Current Board Members: **President- Kelly Peterson** **VP- Denita Wisniewski**, **Secretary- Clara Vancura**, **Treasurer- Ted Gray**, John Howard, **Todd Ecker**, **Dave Determan**, **Peg Churchwell**, Andy Otremba, **Teresa Sorenson** (highlighted denotes in attendance)

1- Call to Order/Roll Call — Meeting called to order at 4:31PM by President Kelly Peterson

2- Approval of agenda/additions/deletions — motion made by Clara and second by Denita to approve the agenda

3- Approval of Minutes – Motion made by Dave D. and second by Todd E.

Financial Report– motion made by Ted G and second by Todd E.

APPROVE BUDGET – Newest budget not currently available. Changes made were to increase membership dues approved last month by board and changes also noted with internet/phone, would still have a deficit (exact number being sent out by Ted to Board on) motion to approve budget was made by Todd E. and second by Denita W.

4- Introduction of new Community/Chamber Members: Long Prairie Hockey Association & Vanguard insurance, Cub Scouts Pack 40

Possible members: Natural Alternatives—new business south of town, Dragon Willow Winery – planning on joining in April

Suggestions:

5- Tourism Report— Eric and Lisa will be filling in for Lu while she is out on vacation.

6- EDA Report—Government Report- City, County, School – none at this time

7- Director’s Report-

Facebook- November/December LIKES 1269= 41 since last meeting, please ask a friend to like our page

Featuring our Own- Bright Light Parade, Next: LP Sanitary, Senior Center & Tourism

Publicity/Advertising- THANKS for being members & KEYL- Membership drive

-IDEA: ask Thunder Lodge about advertising on napkin/place settings or cups

8- Old Business

- a. Bright Light parade – report
 - a. Great attendance this year
 - b. Not as many entries in the parade
 - c. Hart Mall was very full of kids

- d. The softball team was not able to come and sell brats/popcorn
- b. PRAIRIE DAYS - Committee meeting SET DATE
 - a. Possible dates will be sent out for the new year
- c. Membership renewal letters- letter, NEW rates, Annual Banquet invite and return envelope
 - a. All envelopes have been prepared.
- d. Good Morning Breakfast- at CentraCare, January 18 from 7:30-8:30am
 - a. Non-profit not yet decided
- e. Annual Banquet cost: \$13.20 per plate includes gratuity
 Dinner: pork loin, potatoes, cheesy mushroom gravy, vegetable, and dinner roll
 Entertainment: LPGE singers (confirmed) and LP Chamber Orchestra (confirmed)
 Cost for attendance: 20\$ per person
 February 9th in the evening.

9- New Business

- a. Email question for Todd Ecker – issues sending emails to LP Leader specifically.
 - a. Todd will come and look into it.
- b. CTC- cost comparison to Charter (see attachment)
 - a. Cost will increase by 10\$ per month with the same services
 - b. Will no longer be “sharing” internet with the EDA
 - c. Motion made by Dave D. second by Ted G., motion carried
- c. Credit Card service with US Card Systems Brainerd - cost: \$97.00 & 2.39% per transaction
 - a. Todd will speak with card services to discuss how the transaction happens
 - b. How many other chambers do this? Not known
 - c. How many members are wanting to pay by credit card?
 - d. Could we use that for chamber bucks?
 - e. Tabled for next meeting
- d. Chamber Bucks 2%
 - a. Previous discussion about having a 2% charge to pay for the cost of filling out the checks and cost of checks
 - b. Currently not a positive reaction to this idea
 - c. Will not pursue
- e. 501c3- Franz Vancura’s (see email below)
 - a. Would have a separate board
 - b. What would the cost be to set-up the 501C.3. ?
 - c. Question about the additional costs associated with having this status?

Clara,

The following is my take on whether the Long Prairie Chamber of Commerce can apply for tax exempt status:

The short answer is, “yes” but as a 501.C6 organization and not as a 501C.3. The main difference between a 501.C6 and a 501C.3 is the deductibility of donations to the organizations on one’s tax return. You can’t deduct donations to a 501C.6 like you can to a 501C.3. However, 501C.6’s can lobby and engage in political activity whereas 501C3’s cannot.

Now, the Long Prairie Chamber could start a non-profit foundation which, if its mission was sufficiently limited, would or could qualify as a 501C.3.

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10- Adjourn -- Motion made by Lu to adjourn meeting, second by Dave D., meeting adjourned at 5:13PM

Our Core Values : Promotion of Chamber Businesses, Leadership Development, Proactive Community Leadership, Information Hub