

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 November 19, 2019 4:30 pm at **City Hall**

In attendance: President- Clara Vancura VP- Denita Wisniewski, Secretary- Misty Lemke, Dave Determan, Andy Otremba, Teresa Sorenson

Guests: Isaac and Owen Otremba

Current Executive Board Members: President- Clara Vancura VP- Denita Wisniewski, Secretary- Misty Lemke, Treasurer- John Howard

Board Members: Todd Ecker, Dave Determan, Andy Otremba, Teresa Sorenson, Ashley Behagg, Stephanie Och, Barb Neumann

1- Call to Order/Roll Call

2- Approval of agenda/additions/deletions An addition was added to the agenda was made and motion was made to accept by David D. and seconded by Denita W. Motion carried.

3- Approval of Minutes, addition, Financial Report, Addition: Set 2020 Budget meeting

Motion was made by David D. and seconded by Teresa S. to accept the October 2019 minutes. Motion carried.

Financial report was discussed. The Chamber needs approximately 60,000 to stay in the black. We only receive 30-32,000 in Membership fees and the EDA pays the Chamber 18,000 for services, so the Chamber is down 10,000. Could there be cut in costs or hours, yes, but at the expense of service to businesses, organizations and the community. What is the solution?

Motion was made by Denita to accept the Financial report, Andy O. seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

The board was invited to come to the 2020 Budget meeting. The meeting will be held at Thunder Lodge. Lu will call to arrange a date and time. Misty L., David D., Clara V, Andy O, Teresa S, Denita agreed to attend, John H. and Phil will be invited.

4- Introduction of new Community/Chamber Members: No new Chamber members, but there is a list to write.

Possible members:

Suggestions:

5- Tourism Report— OPEN INVITATION: Eric Streed

6- EDA Report—Government Report- OPEN INVITATION: City- Ted Gray, Jodi Dixon, County- Rick Utech, School- Jon Kringen, Tammy Cebulla, Bart Rud, Brad Evenson

7- Presentations—

8- Director's Report-

Facebook- Oct/Nov 1952 = 33 since last meeting, please ask a friend to like our page

Webpage- about 400 _ 1200-1500 per month

9- Old Business

- a. Good Morning Breakfast- report about Cornerstone pines breakfast October 24 at 7:30. The breakfast went well, nice atmosphere and great group.
Next breakfast: Vitality Wellness – December 19th- non- profit= food shelf
- b. Child Care Solutions grant update- Moving forward, meetings with Daycare providers, Employers, LP Packing, and Children’s First Finance. There are many ideas up in the air, but the money needs to be spent by June 30, 2020.
- c. Welcoming Communities grant- IDI evaluation- Chamber group report- The group really enjoyed the meeting with Dawn and discussing their group results. They learned a lot about themselves and the group. Most members of the board will be meeting with Dawn Espee on an individual basis to talk about their individual results.
- d. Career Fair report- All went well, but there are suggestions: Change the date to March, have individual sessions with employers- 30 minutes, colleges in the gym. Hopefully more trades can come at the time.

10- New Business

- a. Upcoming Chamber events: Lunch and Learn November 20 at MN National Bank, David D. will be presenting about Vaping and Electronic cigarettes, Bright Light Parade- we need donations for prizes, Mid-Winter Fest- Annual Banquet – planning- looking at Tuesday, February 25, 2019 at Thunder Lodge. We can keep the theme and try with that again.
- b. Membership drive- underway, no increase in fees
- c. Community Development director (combining EDA & Chamber) for a position

EDA/Chamber

In the past the EDA and the Chamber have worked hand in hand and have shared resources and costs together.

- Julie Baum’s position, the former Chamber director, was funded up to 50% by the EDA.

Now, the Chamber is funded solely by membership fees. The membership fees raised are between 30,000 – 32,000. This amount does not cover administrative costs and other costs of living: director’s salary (full-time), professional fees for an accountant, supplies, internet, and telephone. If the present situation continues, there will have to be extreme cuts in hours and services, thus leaving a relatively dysfunctional Chamber that can only provide limited support for the businesses, non-profits and the community in general.

The Chamber has taken on the assistant EDA position, but the EDA tasks combined with the Chamber are becoming overwhelming and the need for an assistant to the EDA and Chamber is growing.

Mt. Lake and Granite Falls are examples of EDA & Chamber director as a combined position.

More discussion later.

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