

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

Current Executive Board Members: President- Josiah Tonder, VP Jeremiah Zahnow, Secretary- Clara Vancura, Treasurer- Denita Wisniewski

Board Members in Attendance: Josiah Tonder, Jeremiah Zahnow, Clara Vancura, Amber Miller, Micki Czech, Todd Ecker and David Determan via Zoom

Guest in Attendance: Holly Bohlen from Knute Nelson

Wednesday, November 30, 2022 03:30 PM @ City Hall

MEETING

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call:** 3:30PM
- 2. Approval of agenda/additions/deletions:** Amber motioned to approve the agenda as written, second by Clara, motion carried
- 3. Approval of Minutes:** Amber motioned to approve the October minutes as written, second by Todd, motion carried
- 4. Financial Report –**
 - a. Finances for Arts & Crafts show with \$5,838 profit currently with a few outstanding bills (advertising, school). Next meeting we will do totals and review this year vs. last year.
 - b. October finances reviewed. Clara motioned to approve the October financials, seconded by Amber, motion carried.
 - c. BUDGET
 - i. Discussion of sustainability for Welcome Center and interpreting costs
 - ii. Board discussed increasing Director’s compensation from 8-10%
 - iii. Motion made by Clara to approve reviewed budget including increase in director compensation of 10%, second by Jeremiah,
 1. Discussion:
 2. Does this include start with “Growth Zone”? Yes.
 3. Are we automatically approving “Growth Zone” with this budget? Yes, by accepting this budget we are also accepting “Growth Zone”
 4. Would we be able to get the software without the website? Yes, but Lu would prefer to learn both at the same time and have the largest capabilities
 5. Are there areas where we could adjust or look at the budget if there is a “storm” we need to weather? Potentially, decrease areas of spending or to raise additional \$1,000 to cover the cost of the website.
 6. Commitment can be month to month with the software and would only need to “pay out” for the website if we decided to leave. No “contract”.
 7. Currently in our budget have projected funds to cover.
 8. Would Lu be the only one who is educated on the software? Lu hopes to have someone else trained in as well.
 - iv. Discussion finished. Motion carried.
- 5. Introduction of new Community/Chamber Members:**
 - a. Knute Nelson provides home care and hospice care

- b. Goal to have residents remain in their homes with cares including therapies, nursing and social support
- c. Currently employ 12-14 staff in the Long Prairie Office

6. Director's Report-

Facebook- October/November people like this 3,325 people like this = 57 since last meeting, please ask a friend to like our page

Webpage- Featuring our Own- SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES ON SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Next year would like to do a bit more.

In Sauk Centre they do a "Passport" to visit local businesses.

7- Old Business

- a. Arts & Crafts show -
 - a. Ran out of food at noon
 - b. Additional financials to review in December
 - c. One vendor located next to another selling similar items though description of their business's was lengthy and differing first products listed
 - d. One concern of "crafts" imported rather than bought
 - e. Liked the ability to start set-up at 3PM the evening before
- b. BIG decision- Growth Zone Chamber Master
 - a. Approved in the budget
- c. Good Morning Breakfast- none in November –
 - a. Open house at the Chamber on December 22nd, open the whole day
- d. Discussion about our core values
 - a. Maybe at the beginning of the year we could review and discuss.
 - b. Could look at what we are doing and base off that or we write one on what we want to value. Goal to help with decision making in the future
 - c. Do we want to keep our core values the same or do we need to remove or adjust to better align with our goals/desires?
 - d. Could we give ourselves some homework? What does each of the core values mean to us? How do you see us currently accomplishing these core values?

8- New Business

- a. MS Tram
 - a. Is this something we want to do?
 - b. Either we do it or it doesn't happen here
 - c. Micki communicated with Lindsey w/ MS Tram.
 - i. How were things paid for? MS Tram did all the marketing,
 - 1. Medical Personnel - volunteer
 - 2. Dumpster – free
 - 3. Use of Fair Grounds – not remembered
 - 4. Transportation shuttles – Via Rainbow Rider with cost agreed with Rainbow Rider
 - ii. Expecting 350 cyclists and think about half would want to stay in Hotel's
 - 1. There is no shuttle that could take them that far (except for Sauk Centre potentially)
 - 2. Average age 55

3. Come from Wadena
4. Date of July 27th – from 11AM to 4PM arrival
- iii. Divide into committee's
- iv. Volunteers need to have a firm commitment as don't want to end of not having some show up
 1. Good support from local families who have MS
 2. Could potentially obtain help through the MS Tram community per Lindsey
- v. What about Rain? Able to go into the buildings on the fair grounds
- vi. If we do this and it doesn't go well?
 1. What is the negative? They won't come back
- vii. Motion made by Josiah to "go for it", Todd seconded, motion carries
 1. Lu will let Lindsey know we are a "go".
- b. Next year planning (extra meeting): Prairie Days, Concert in the Park, GMB – After hours – Lunch and Learns etc.
 - a. Can do this after/with Core Values

9- Adjourn 4:44pm

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

Proposal for ChamberMaster/GrowthZone Software:

<https://ams.growthzone.com/Ge0VNulepe8>

I have also blocked off time to my calendar for you board meeting on the 27th at 3:30pm. If you still want me to join and give your board a quick tour I would be more than happy to accommodate!

Thanks Luan and let me know if you need anything else. Happy Friday!

Brandon Manselle | Senior Account Executive

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On our call we discussed websites a bit and wanted to pass along some recent builds we have completed. I thought you might have interest in these. If you have any questions please let me know.

<https://www.portlandtx.org/>

<https://www.cleburnechamber.com/>

<https://www.nhcchamber.com/>

<https://www.saratoga.org/>

<https://www.amcanchamber.org/>

<https://www.morrisvillechamber.org/>

<https://www.bemidji.org/>

<https://www.nisswa.com/>

Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce

2022 Strategic Goals

1. Increase Chamber Membership
 - a. Secure **15** new members in either Long Prairie or the surrounding area.
 - b. Show non-members the value of membership by introducing them to the Chamber Website, Facebook page and Membership Benefits flyer.
HOW
2. Retain Current Membership –
 - a. 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.
 - b. Promote and share business events and content via the chamber website, Facebook, GMLP Breakfasts, radio, emails etc.

On going

3. Brand the LPACC as the information Hub of Long Prairie
 - a. Send out **Bi-weekly** emails utilizing direct links for advertisements and events.
On going
 - b. Update the chamber website monthly to ensure it is an efficient and effective way to connect the community with resources
On going
4. **Organize Community Development Opportunities**
 - a. **Facilitate a minimum of 4 classes/workshops per year on various topics. Events can be either in person or virtual.**
5. Budget
 - a. Establish a budget committee to meet quarterly to discuss financials.
 - b. Ensure community events are budget positive.