

The mission of the Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce is to promote Chamber members while enhancing the livability and connectedness of the community.

Minutes : Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce

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

Board Members: Todd Ecker, Andy Otremba, Chris Amundson, Micki Czech, Amy Allen

Wednesday, December 27, 2023 – Monthly MEETING 03:30 PM @ CITY HALL

Board members in attendance: Josiah T, Jeremiah Z, Clara V, Denita W, Todd E (needed to leave after presentation), Chris A, Micki C, Amy A via Zoom (lost connection at 4:30pm then called on phone when official meeting started)

Guests in attendance: Jose Alba from CentraCare Long Prairie, Martha Gutierrez from Alexandria Technical and Community College, Jen from United Way, Kali Christensen from Methodist churches in the area, James Neppel from Williams Dingman Funeral Homes, Toby new Manager from Central Bi-Products

MEETING

END OF YEAR GATHERING:

- Introductions
- Jose Alba provided a CentraCare report with overview of successes at the Long Prairie Campus, challenges facing Long Prairie Campus, Up Coming in 2024: Walk in Clinic starting March 2024 and Report to Community Event in April 2024, Community Support remains high
- Members in attendance provided updates and upcoming events
- Lu will be presenting an overview of the year at the next LP Area Chamber of Commerce Networking Event

OFFICIAL MEETING:

1-Call to Order/Roll Call: 4:47PM

2- Approval of agenda/additions/deletions: Motion made by Jeremiah to approve agenda as written. Denita seconded, motion carried unanimously.

3- Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Denita to approve minutes as written. Jeremiah seconded, motion carried unanimously.

4- Financial Report –

November financial report - Motion made by Jeremiah to approve financials. Denita seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Updated budget

CD investment – total investment of \$40,000 (\$15,000 for 5 months and two \$10,000 for 11 months)

IRS reinstatement & penalty – we were unable to send in IRS forms in 2021 and 2022 as we had not yet been reinstated as a non-profit to be able to send it. Phil is currently speaking with staff review and is currently on hold for a few weeks. We need to submit a letter for tax Abatement on these tax forms. Phil is currently writing the letter to be sent in. Potential cost up to \$8,000.

5- Introduction of new Community/Chamber Members:

6- Director's Report-

** Long Prairie Police force welcomes first Hispanic– Post engagement 2,500

Webpage- Featuring our Own- **LP Police article**

7- Old Business

- a. Event reports & updates:
 - a. Networking events- Good Morning Long Prairie, Lunch and Learn (education to chamber members on how to access new website and update their information themselves and United Way)
 - b. Arts & Crafts Show -end report at next meeting
 - c. Prairie Days updates – June 2-9 2024 (Bike & Trike is moving to the week before Prairie Day's)
- b. MSR grant work has started
- c. Banners update – 3 potential options for review
- d. Discussions:
 - a. Tourism (increase)
 - i. Proposed increase: \$1042 quarterly (adjustment includes additional 5 hrs/month @ \$25 hr and 3% inflation)
 - b. Community Garden (letter to City Council)
 - i. Desire for the cost to be transferred to the city rather than the Chamber of commerce
 - c. Outdoor Rink
 - i. Full and waiting for freezing

8- New Business

- a. LPEDA contract increase 3%
 - a. Currently \$2512 a month (20 hrs a week) with increase would be \$2587 which has been accepted by the LPEDA board
 - b. Contract has been printed and needs to be signed by Chair, Josiah will

9- Adjourn 5:04pm

Our Core Values :

- ❖ Promoting and connecting Chamber Members
- ❖ Information and Resource Hub
- ❖ Community enhancement

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.
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 3 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.

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Most travel companies offer per diem as well as housing/lodging costs to them along with their wages