

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 : Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce

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

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

Wednesday, December 18, 2024 – Monthly MEETING 03:30 PM @ City Hall

Members Present: Josiah, Micki, Denita, Todd, Toby, Jeremiah, Amy (via Teams)

Visitors: Dustin Wagner, Coborns

MEETING

1-Call to Order/Roll Call Josiah at 3:31 pm

2- Approval of agenda/additions/deletions

EDA Contract needs to be discussed, approved and signed as new business. On a motion by: Denita seconded by: Todd Motion carried:

3- Approval of Minutes, additions

On a motion by: Todd seconded by: Denita Motion carried:

4- Financial Report – Budget discussion, Membership increase, Director's salary annual increase

Everyone is paid up on Chamber Bucks. Central Bi got 571 and Dan's Prize got 369 Chamber Bucks for November. Central Bi uses for Safety and Christmas gifts. Dan's Prize uses for Christmas gifts. \$49,836 in AHNB plus the CD's \$89,000 in AHNB. MN National shows a negative on the balance sheet, but we are not in the negative. Deposit may not have made in the records. Actuals for November we have a minus. We are still getting some bills for the craft sale. The donations we over budgeted for 2024 by \$21,000. We are short on our income, but was from the Melena Moie concert.

On a motion by: Toby seconded by: Jeremiah Motion carried:

5- Presentations:

Guest - Dustin Wagner - Store director for Coborns in Long Prairie for 4 years.

Budget - Craft sale \$11,000 - Services are EDA services - that is what EDA pays the Chamber for Lu's work with the EDA. Lu will check the difference for EDA numbers. Should be \$31,000. Increased the membership by 6%. Daniella and Lu are both under wages. Accounting is with Tom Murch for \$5-6,000. We budgeted for \$7,000. \$23,250 is for Prairie Days (entertainment) plus \$7,000 for Prairie Days. Scholarships for Sourcewell and Dollars for Scolers. Net income - \$7,584.85 - part of this is the money we had budgeted for Tourism which we are not getting this year. Prairie Days is about a break even with the donations vs. expenses. Amortization is \$1900. Lu will find out what this amount is. Discussions: We need to focus on membership and try to add members. Advertising is one line item that we can possibly save money. Cut back on advertising in the newspapers for the craft sale and Prairie Days (cut about 50%). Cut the Scholarships for 2025.

Motion: Motion by Toby to Month of May, June, & October we are cutting the budget of advertising by 50%, and cut the Scholarships for 2025 at the discretion of Lu and Phil. Second by Todd, Motion carried.

6- Director's Report-

7- Old Business

Chamber Event reports & updates:

Networking events – December – Alex Tech, 2025- Jan - Childcare Appreciation sponsors:

30 people at Alex Tech event. January - asking for sponsorships for the Childcare Appreciation for meals and gifts.

Bright Light festivities - report

No problems at the parade. Very cold.

Arts & Craft show – report

Wonderful year, parking lot was full 3 times - 3-5,000 people attended.

Phil Gould is retiring. Tom Murch is willing to be our accountant. Cost

Proposal from Tom Murch \$5 - 6,000 for the year. Motion by Todd to make Tom Murch our CPA/Accountant. Toby seconded. motion carried

8- New Business

Board members stepping down, officers & new members recruitment

Josiah is stepping down. Officers are done at the January meeting. January will also be the annual meeting.

Membership renewal - Jan 1, 2025

Todd made a motion to Increase memberships by 9.9% and giving a 3% discount for cash or check. Jeremiah seconded, motion carried.

Renewal of EDA Contract - Jeremiah made a motion to approve the EDA contract, seconded by Toby, motion carried.

Annual meeting

January 22, 2025 at City Hall.

9- Adjourn

Adjourned at 4:35 pm.

Our Core Values :

Promoting and connecting Chamber Members

Information and Resource Hub

Community enhancement

Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce

2024 Strategic Goals

Increase Chamber Membership

Secure **10** 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.

On going

Promote and share business events and content via the chamber website, Facebook, Networking events, 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 Community Development Opportunities

Facilitate a minimum of 3 classes/workshops per year on various topics. Events can be either in person or virtual.

Budget

Establish a budget committee to meet quarterly to discuss financials.

Ensure community events are budgeted in the positive.