

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, January 24, 2023 – Monthly MEETING 03:30 PM @ CITY HALL

Board members in attendance: Clara V, Chris A, Denita W, Josiah T

### **MEETING**

**1-Call to Order/Roll Call:** 3:45pm

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

**3- Approval of Minutes, additions:** Motion made to accept minutes as amended by Secretary by Chris. Denita seconded, motion carried unanimously.

#### **4- Financial Report –**

**Vote on updated budget –** Motion made by Denita to accept the updated budget, Chris seconded, motion carried unanimously.

**Vote on Financial Report -** Denita made motion to accept the financial report, Chris seconded, motion carried unanimously.

**Investment –** nothing new to report

**Invoices for this year's membership coming in.** How many business's paid electronically initially? 4 business's and we lost 4% of their membership for credit card transactions. Email sent out to members asking to pay via cash/check and the rest of members who have paid have sent in checks. Should re-visit for next year's invoices and discuss a "cash" discount.

**IRS reinstatement & penalty –** no updates at this time. Phil will be calling them back next week.

**Arts and Crafts Show 2023 –** net income \$8,000

#### **5- Introduction of new Community/Chamber Members:**

Wholesome Living Acres & Back Forty Flower Farm (seasonal)

#### **6- Director's Report-**

**Unlocking Business Success: Workshops in Long Prairie, Minnesota – Information sent out to Members**

**Webpage-** Featuring our Own- **Business Workshops & Enterprise Academy**

#### **7- Old Business**

- a. Chamber/Tourism Event reports & updates:
- b. Networking events-looking for hosts for Good Morning LP and LP After Hours, next is February 22<sup>nd</sup>
- c. Arts & Crafts Show -
- d. Prairie Days updates – June 1-9 2024
  - a. All vendors scheduled (face paint, inflatables, ect)

- b. Fundraising letter made up and will be sent out
- e. Concert in the Park: All scheduled.
  - a. Have been asked by community members to have Malina Moye come to town – held at Chavez Center on July 25<sup>th</sup>
  - b. Down payment being sent
  - c. Goal for 300 in attendance
- f. Tourism increase – speaking at next February City Council meeting
- g. MSR grant and Banners update
  - a. 7/28 projects have been completed
  - b. Banners being updated again and will be sent out again. Will be voted on February 5<sup>th</sup> 2024

## 8- New Business

- a. Tourism – Goals & Plans
  - a. Welcome Guide will be re-vamped this year
  - b. Chris brings up topic of “Adding value to chamber membership” and there are currently two groups of businesses (manufacturing and tourism)
  - c. Where and How can we bring tourism more to the forefront and would it be part of the chamber or through another entity?
    - i. Marketing
    - ii. Downtown Spaces
  - d. Historically there had been a Tourism Board through the City of Long Prairie but ended up disbanding around 2017
  - e. Prairie Days – are we committed to using downtown for Prairie Days?
    - i. How many of the attendee’s are from LP or from outside of town?
    - ii. Could having it in a different space increase attendance from outside of LP?  
Aka increase of tourism
- b. Central Bi-Products discussion
  - a. Chris Amundsen has concerns regarding smells with the new water treatment plant as well as smells with Central Bi-Products and would like to hear more from Central Bi-Products regarding smells and how/why they happen
  - b. Chris has already reached out to Lu and these questions were sent over to the new manager of Central Bi-Products who responded that he would be reaching out to speak with Chris personally
  - c. How could/would the Chamber be involved? Are there other business’s with these same questions that we can provide the space for Central Bi-Products to speak with the board or with chamber members. We may have a lot of questions and as an information Hub we would like to be able to pass on information to other businesses who are asking questions
- c. 2024 Officers & board members elections/voting in
  - a. Motion made by Chris to vote Jeremiah to continue with role of vice chair, Denita seconded, motion carried unanimously.
  - b. Motion made by Clara to vote Denita to continue with role of treasurer, Chris seconded, motion carried unanimously.
  - c. Motion made by Chris to vote Josiah to continue with role of chair, Denita seconded, motion carried unanimously.
  - d. Denita made a motion for resignation of Clara V from board, Chris seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Our Core Values :

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

Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce

2023 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.
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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