

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-Treasurer- Denita Wisniewski

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

Absent: Todd Ecker, Andy Otremba, Chris Amundson, (Jeremiah came at 4 pm)

Visitors: Toby Polkinhorn - Manager at Central Bi Products

Wednesday, May 22, 2024 – Monthly MEETING 03:30 PM @ City Hall

MEETING

1-Call to Order/Roll Call:

- Josiah at 4:33 pm

2- Approval of agenda/additions/deletions

- none Motion to accept - Amy - Second - Micki - Motion carried

3- Approval of Minutes, additions

- no changes
- Motion to approve the minutes: Denita Second by: Micki - Motion carried

4- Financial Report

- AHNB \$62,882.83 MN \$1,527 plus \$40,000 in CD's at AHNB, \$28,000 will go out for Prairie Days.
- We have raised everything we need for Prairie Days Donations
- Little bit to cover Concert in the Park yet. \$2500 grant from 5 Wings Council
- \$24,000 gross profit because of donations
- Net Income of \$14,000
- \$7,200 in sales -
- \$3,500 for Cinco De Mio being rolled over for next year since 2024 was cancelled.
- Motion to approve the minutes: Micki Second by: Amy - Motion carried

5- Introduction of new Community/Chamber Members:

- Corrina's Creations

6- Director's Report-

Webpage- TCDC new director & Enterprise Academy

- Long Prairie webpage - Melissa Weiman was at the meeting last night. Gave a presentation on housing possibilities.

7- Old Business

Chamber/Tourism Event reports & updates:

Networking events- tomorrow- LPGE hosting – who can come?

- Denita will attend

Prairie Days updates – June 1-9 - details, volunteers – committees

- Fund raising is done
- Need volunteers to sit at ticket booth and set up and tear down.
- Replacement and has been hired for 9 - 11. A DJ has also been hired - he will play a mixture of music
- Food vendors are getting lined up - Les Levin will be there to handle the electric problems

Concert in the Park – Volunteers?

- Need volunteers for the donation part of it.
- Lu will send a list out for volunteers with the email for volunteers for the Prairie Days

- Long Prairie Chamber is stepping back from the Concert in the Park for 2025. Tourism will be taking over.

Tourism update: video banner and banners downtown

- Video banners - Chris and Lu have been working on the video banner production. They have spoken with Golden Shovel as to where the drone is to fly for the video. They decreased the cost. They are going to be doing drone coverage for the websites. They gave lists of where to take the drone pictures. They are coming for Prairie Days. The video will be on the Long Prairie website, Chamber website and tourism will use it for other purposes.

8- New Business

Hiring a new person - Marketing, bi-lingual – Job Description & Chamber Director job description

- Lu met with Daniella on May 22nd. She graduated from Alex Tech College. Lu has done a job description for the proposed job. She is a recent graduate.
- Motion: Denita made the motion to allow Lu to hire Danniela Chavez R for a temp position of 10 hours/week with any additional time approved by the director. Pay to be set at \$18-19 per hour. Earliest start date of June 3, 2024. This position would go to at the latest of August 30, 2024. Second: Jeramiah - motion carried
- Lu does not have a formal job description either as the Chamber director. The Chamber Board needs to come up with a job description.

By-laws review - add email voting

- Lu will send the by-laws out for the next meeting.

WAVE Saludos Welcome Center update- Non-profit

- UPDATE: Wave Saludos has been under the Chamber. It is housed in the Chamber building. Help with forms, DMV questions, etc. 3 years of \$15,000 of grants. Coming to the end of the grant period. It has to be a non-profit to get grants. Sourcewell will help with the process. Cost will be \$1,565 to be a non-profit. This will separate WAVE from the Chamber. Lu will remain on the Board. There is \$9,000 left as restricted funds for the Welcome Center.

9- Adjourn Our Core Values :

Promoting and connecting Chamber Members

Information and Resource Hub

Community enhancement

Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce

2024 Strategic Goals

1. Increase Chamber Membership
 - a. Secure **10** 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.
On going
 - 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 budgeted in the positive.