

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, November 20, 2024 – Monthly MEETING 03:30 PM @ City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Josiah, Jeramiah, Denita, Andy, Chris, Micki, Toby,

Visitor - Doug Froke

MEETING

1-Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting called to order by: Josiah Tonder at 3:30

2- Approval of agenda/additions/deletions

Additions/Deletions: Addition to C - December meeting is on December 25th. Will move to December 18th.

Motion to approve the agenda made by: Jeramiah Seconded by: Andy Motion Carried

3- Approval of Minutes, additions

Additions/Deletions: New Business - Daniella

Discussion:

Motion to approve the Minutes made by: Andy Seconded by: Jeramiah Motion Carried

4- Financial Report – Decision about November CD’s

Additions/Deletions:

Discussion: Bank Account \$54,090.27, Certificates \$40,000 Chamber \$1,526 - Phil says we are in good standing this year. October 2024 is -\$3,275 for Malina Moye, it was invoiced to the City. This was removed. We would \$8,415.15 over budget year to date.

Motion to approve the Financial Report made by: Denita Seconded by: Toby Motion Carried

Certificates of Deposit at AHNB matured on December 15th. Can be renewed at 4.25% for 5 months. When CD matures in 4 months, we should have conversation what does it look like financially to use the funds for the good of the Chamber members

Motion made by Chris Seconded by Jeramiah to reinvest for 5 months at 4.25%.

5- Presentations:

Doug Froke - interim Superintendent of the Long Prairie/Grey Eagle School - Retired and living in Alexandria. In the month Doug has been here, he has been making relationships at the school.

6- Director’s Report- Introduction of new Community/Chamber Members – Ona’s Alterations LLC

Chasity Arnold - she joined as a listing. We did ribbon cutting.

7- Old Business

- a. Chamber/Tourism Event reports & updates:

Networking events – NONE in November next in December – Alex Tech

Alexandria Tech college - they would like to hear from businesses around town. They want to know how they can help LP businesses with work force.

- October – LPEDA & TCDC - report - Business Appreciation

Manufacturers' Breakfast – Central Bi

Toby spoke, 55 people attended. 7 MSR grant recipients were there and recognized.

Halloween Trick or Treat – report

State Farm said they had 900 children.

Bright Light festivities – coming soon

Advertisements are out. Carolers at 110 Coffee before the parade. 10 floats signed up at this time plus the firetrucks, police, etc. Santa at River of Life Church, free hot chocolate at Peace United Church

Arts & Craft show – t-shirts & concessions

Running smoothly- booths are sold out. T-shirts were not a hit. The shirts were made as samples, but none were ordered. Concessions - school is going to the school. Money is going to Facts program

Prairie Days dates – SAVE THE DATE – support meeting- Set date – December

1st week of December set date

- b. Tourism update: Tourism video – done & Tourism membership? Discuss quarterly payment to the Chamber.

Chris - drone video has come together. Should be done in the next week or so. Board will meet next month for goals for next year. They will not be doing the quarterly payment to the Chamber. Lu feels that she promotes the tourism. Tourism will reconsider payment going to the Chamber. Tourism is trying to find the line between tourism and Chamber.

- c. Job position for Danniela Chavez's - What can she do in the winter?

Micki made the Motion to hire Danniela Chavez at \$18 per hour with 10 hours per week as an employee of the Long Prairie Chamber. Motion seconded by Andy. Adding Danniela could help us to generate more income. Discussion followed - Motion carried

8- New Business

- a. Phil Gould is retiring. Discuss Budget meeting and plan moving forward

Budget meeting with Phil on Monday. He is working on the numbers we worked up.

Phil is retiring. We need to look into replacement. Lu is at possible CPAs to get quotes.

Discussion to reach out further than just the local CPAs. We need to make a decision at the next meeting. Lu will get 3 or 4 more quotes

- b. New members recruitment

Looking for new board members.

Next meeting December 18th.

9- Adjourn

Our Core Values :

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

❖ Community enhancement

CentraCare

(d) As an alternative to a formal meeting, the voting members of the Medical Staff or a committee may be presented with a question by mail, facsimile, e-mail, hand-delivery, or telephone, and their votes returned to the chairperson by the method designated in the notice. A quorum for purposes of these votes will be the number of responses returned to the chairperson by the date indicated, except for the quorum requirements noted in (a) above. The question raised will be determined in the affirmative if a majority of the responses returned has so indicated.

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, Networking events, 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.

