

Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce

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 :

Current Executive Board Members:

Chair: Toby Polkinghorne, Vice Chair- Jeremiah Zahnow, Secretary/Treasurer- Denita Wisniewski

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

Board Members Present:

Chris, Denita, Micki, Andy, Jeremiah

Guests Present:

Wednesday, Feb 26, 2025 – Monthly MEETING 03:30 PM @ CITY HALL

MEETING

1-Call to Order/Roll Call:

*3:30 by Jeremiah

2- Approval of agenda/additions/deletions

*No additions or deletions

*Motion to approve the agenda by: Andy Second by: Chris Motion: Approve

3- Approval of Minutes, additions

*No changes

*Motion to approve the minutes by: Andy Second by: Micki Motion: Approve

4- Financial Report – Financials

*Chamber looks very good. \$22,404.79 net income. Child care appreciation cost \$708.91 and \$850 came in for donations. \$33,955.82 in dues have come in. \$9,497.25 still coming in. Lu is contacting the businesses that have not paid. 45 have not paid yet. \$71,577.26 in accounts not including the CD's (\$40,000) - Discussion on the renewal of CD #90105. Andy made to renew at the 7 month CD, seconded by Micki, Approved

*Motion to approve the financials by: Micki Second by: Andy Motion: Approve

5- Introduction of new Community/Chamber Members: BK Blooms, Prairie View Diesel Repair

*BK Blooms - has been posted in newsletter

Prairie View Diesel Repair - in industrial park - used pictures from Facebook

6- Director's Report-

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7- Old Business

Membership renewal report

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Chamber Event reports & updates:

Networking events

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Jan -Childcare Appreciation report

*30 people attended, different organizations there to support the childcare providers.

February – CentraCare 5:30-6:30

*Thursday Feb 27th. Jeremiah will be there - about 42 people are coming - working on a pathwork for students.

March- William Dingman

*July - Initiative Foundation

Prairie Days – June 7th – update – Game World, bands, DJ

*bands are set up - Game World is set up, may change the zoo.

MN Chamber of Commerce Executive conference in February

*Lu went to the conference. Attended with Dana from Wadena Chamber of Commerce. They went to different speakers. Chat GBT was awesome and very informative. Chris, Micki and Jeremiah all use it. \$20 per month. Lu will be doing a class with AJ Peters. How to make money Non-Dues Revenues. Some Chambers do lunch meetings. Or do lunch at different locations. Some work from home, Lu may propose working from home one day a week. Possibly do 10 meetings per year.

Chris asked if Chambers use Chamber Bucks at other Chambers. Yes they are used a lot. How do they restrict it being used at a Chamber business? Can't totally police where they are used.

Chamber Bucks - Report – Denita W ...updates and questions

*Denita made a motion there is no cash back allowed on Chamber Bucks, they must be used in the whole face value, seconded by Micki.

8- New Business

2024 Tourism review- 2025 Tourism request

*Chris is requesting on behalf of Tourism Committee that the Chamber sponsor one of the Concert in the Park concerts. Independence Day Celebration on July 5th has been planned. They are planning a holiday concert. Concert schedule has been reduced to 5 for the season. Discussion on the tourism overview for 2025. Discussion has been tabled until next month.

9- Adjourn

- Micki made the motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Chris. Meeting adjourned.

Our Core Values:

Promoting and connecting Chamber Members

Information and Resource Hub

Community enhancement

Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce

2025 Strategic Goals

Increase Chamber Membership

Secure **15** 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.

Promote and share business events and content via the chamber website, Facebook, GMLP Breakfasts, 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 Networking events on a monthly basis

