

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-Denita Wisniewski, Treasurer- Denita Wisniewski

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

Visitors: Bob Byers,

Wednesday, February 28, 2023 – Monthly MEETING 03:30 PM @ CITY HALL

MEETING

1-Call to Order/Roll Call: 3:30 by Josiah

2- Approval of agenda/additions/deletions - additions New Business change Bank signatures Accept agenda Chris, second Jeremiah

3- Approval of Minutes, additions: Motion to approve – Todd, second Jeremiah

4- Financial Report - IRS reinstatement & penalty: Bank account a total of \$86,000. Includes \$40,000 In CD's at AHNB.

IRS Reinstatement – still pending the review and penalty from the IRS. \$4,300 reinstatement fee and filing fee was paid in 2023 to Gould Accounting to cover his hours and the IRS fees. Phil did reach out to Amy Klobuchar's office. Her office has a rep that can work with the IRS. Rep has contacted Lu, and the ball is rolling.

\$24,000 in membership has been paid, \$17,000 left to pay. Lu has sent out the second notice.

Motion to approve Financial Report - Jeremiah second- Chris, approved

5- Introduction of new Community/Chamber Members: All This And More Events with Troy Lounsbury – American Legion craft shows. Troy will be working on a craft fair during Prairie Days. & Gregg Hendrickson – Individual membership - Independent Politian – Chamber will not be advertising for the politics

– see attachment 2023 Chamber members

6- Director's Report-

Webpage- Featuring our Own- Business Workshops – meeting with guy from Initiative Foundation. One page business plan and food trucks & Enterprise Academy – 12 signed up now. At the Senior Citizens Center – 1 – 4 pm.

7- Old Business

- a. 2024 officers & board members elections/voting in
 - a. Chair – Josiah Tonder
 - b. Vice-Chair Jeremiah Zahnow
 - c. Secretary – Denita Wisniewski
 - d. Treasurer – Denita Wisniewski

- b. Board Members: Todd Ecker, Andy Otremba, Amy Allen, & Micki Czech

Motion for all board members are staying on the board and accepted Motion by Jeramiah, seconded by Chris

- c. Chamber/Tourism Event reports & updates:
 - Networking events-William Dingmans Funeral Home report- full room of people. CentraCare Hospice was the non-profit. MN National and Williams Dingman will work together for on-page checklist of financial items for passing of loved one.
 - Career Fair – March 27th at High school – 25 to 27 booked as presenters. Zoo keeper from Pine Cove Zoo, MN National Bank & American Heritage Bank, Vet tech, CHS, Auto service tech, Alex tech, Construction, Heather Holt on dentistry, Photography, Plumbing, Dan's Prize, ECP, Todd County Social Services, Law Enforcement
 - Cinco de Mayo – Band in place, working on food vendors, in the old Burger King parking lot
 - Arts & Crafts Show update – publicity is out, everything is on website. Booths reserved so far about 30
 - Prairie Days updates – June 1-9 – Trinity Lutheran going to do picnic, library going to do monograms on bags and t-shirts, Basketball Tournament downtown and championship at Lake Charlotte,
 - Concert in the Park, Tourism increase – Poster is ready to check for corrections. Concerts start June 7th with Red Letter Band

8- New Business

- a. Review of 2023 Chamber survey – Lots of good comments
- b. Tourism – Goals, Plans and discussion of How to move forward? What role should the Chamber play (Chris Amundson) – Identified a void with tourism. We think there are some gains with what Chamber does with Tourism. Chris has checked with area cities as to how tourism is handled. City has an ordinance that defines the Tourism. Chris would like to be the chair of the tourism commission. Micki and Amy would also be on the panel. It is set as a 9-person panel. Chris will go to the City Council meeting to talk to them regarding their thoughts about Tourism Commission. Lu has finished with the Welcome Guide, Concert in the Park series. The positive is that the board could come together to decide who they are and what they want to move forward with.
- c. Chamber Goals...update? – hold over for March meeting
- d. Change signatures on Bank accounts:
 - a. #11439 – Community Gardens – American Heritage Bank
 - i. Leave signers as Andy Otremba, Lu Thomas-Brunkhorst
 - b. #12925 – Long Prairie Chamber General Account – American Heritage Bank
 - i. Remove Ted Gray and Kelly Peterson
 - ii. Add Todd Ecker and Josiah Torner
 - iii. Keep Andy Otremba, Lu Thomas-Brunkhorst, & Denita Wisniewski
 - c. #1504901 - Chamber Bucks Account – Minnesota National Bank
 - i. Remove David Determan and Clara Ventura
 - ii. Add Todd Ecker and Josiah Torner
 - iii. Keep Denita Wisniewski and Andy Otremba

Motion to make the name changes on the checking accounts made by Jeramiah, seconded by Chris, motion carried.

Adjourn at 4:40 pm.

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.
 - 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.

