

Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes
September 2, 2009
Cut Bank Development Center – Noon

Directors in Attendance: Mike Bruch, James Laidlaw, Stephanie Browning, LeAnne Kavanagh, Gloria Taylor, Virginia Harman, Scott Laird, Jeff Billman, Josh Larson, Robert Carette.

Executive Director: Amy Overstreet

Directors Absent: Tippy Burtch,

Directors Unexcused: Steve Bucher

Guests Attending: Mayor Doug Embody, Tracy Puryear, Tom Shock, Dawn Barrett, Carson & Marilyn Dunk, Jerilee Wilkerson

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Billman at 12:04 p.m.

The minutes from the August 5, 2009 meeting were presented for approval. James Laidlaw moved to approve the minutes as presented and Virginia Harman seconded the motion. Being no further discussion, the minutes were approved unanimously.

The monthly financial report was distributed to each board member. Lorio Ross with the Dueling Pianos scheduled to perform here on December 4, 2009 has been given a deposit of \$1000. Mike Bruch moved to accept the financial report as given. Stephanie Browning seconded it. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business

The City crew has agreed to the labor match for the CTEP project and has been busy clearing the area around the Visitor's Center in preparation for the underground sprinklers, landscaping and sod.

Amy also reported 24 welcome totes are stuffed and ready to be given out to new residents and businesses.

Jeff reported back to the Board of Directors the radio advertising rates for ads promoting citizens of Cut Bank and area shoppers to "Discover Cut Bank" by shopping locally. There was discussion on also taking advantage of the full page ad promotion being offered by the Cut Bank Pioneer Press. Gloria Taylor made a motion to accept the advertising rate from KSEN for \$220 a month with promotional ads running three times a day and taking the promotional full page for \$302 a month from the Cut Bank Pioneer Press for the months of September and October. The motion was seconded by James Laidlaw and it passed without further discussion.

With the terms of Mike Bruch, James Laidlaw, and Stephanie Browning ending in December, the nominating committee has been gathering names for possible candidates for The Chamber's upcoming election. James and Stephanie have agreed to run for re-election. Mike Bruch has served out his two 3-year terms. Discussion was held on getting a representative from the hospital and the farming community. The nominating committee-Mike Bruch, James Laidlaw, Amy Overstreet, and Gloria Taylor will meet Thursday, September 3 at Visitor's Center at noon to compile a list of people to contact.

The Festival of Trees and Keys will be held December 4, 2009 at the Joe Meagher

Memorial Civic Center. The Chicago Dueling pianos with Dave Roberts and Dan Satterberg will be returning again this year to perform for a fundraising event sponsored by the Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce and the Northern Rockies Medical Center Hospital Auxiliary. Discussion was held on how the money raised from this event would be used. Suggestions were a cover for the stage in the City Park or the Festival of Lights.

Jeff reported the Christmas lights will be hung November 17th and asked for volunteers to help. The Festival of Lights parade will be November 21st. Stephanie volunteered to be in charge of the parade lineup at the West end of town. LeAnne volunteered to be in charge of the festivities at the Civic Center. Ernie Stomsvick will be asked to be the parade marshal.

New Business:

Amy informed the Chamber Board of Directors the Chamber Liability Insurance is due on September 14. After reviewing the policy with Pat Greany and Kris Welker, it was found the Montana Junior Miss program cannot be covered under our policy as they have their own entity. Amy is still waiting to hear from Kris on what the Liability Insurance will cost for the next year and what organizations will be covered by the Chamber's Liability Insurance.

Jerilee Wilkerson, Executive Director of the Cut Bank Development Corporation reported on a \$5000 Special Events Advertising Grant offered by the Montana Office of Tourism to any non-profit entity. The matching funds are 3:1. The grant deadline is September 25th. Jerilee will approach the CBDC board on getting permission to write this grant. Mike Bruch made a motion for Jerilee, upon receiving approval from the CBDC, to write for the \$5000 Advertising Grant with Josh Larson seconding the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. Lewis & Clark Festival, Montana Storytelling Roundup and Festival of Lights are eligible to apply for this grant.

For the Chamber's "Make a Difference Day" project this year, the exterior of the Visitor Information Center on Main Street will be painted since it is not covered with the CTEP funds. Gloria asked that everyone meet at the Center on October 3rd at noon and bring their paint brushes.

Robert Carette was in question on what expenses were covered for the Glacier Country Meeting that he will be attending in Hot Springs. Gloria said the Chamber board had approved the expense of a room, meals, and mileage when Robert was appointed to the Glacier Country Board last year. Mayor Joni Stewart offered the use of a city vehicle and pay the mileage for last year. Due to liability issues, the City can no longer provide the transportation.

Jerilee Wilkerson felt the CBDC needed a website and asked the Chamber board of directors if the CBDC could get on the Chamber's website. The board agreed and also suggested Jerilee ask the City of Cut Bank to get on their website.

Mike Bruch announced he had received Steve Bucher's resignation from the board as he was just too busy to attend meetings as specified by the by-laws. LeAnne Kavanagh made a motion to accept Steve's resignation and his replacement be Dawn Barrett as she was next in line with the most votes in the last election. The motion was seconded by Gloria Taylor. The motion passed unanimously.

Visitor's Comments:

Robert Carette announced the Little Bear Child Care located at 101 S. Central Avenue will have Open House on Friday, September 18 from 6-8 p.m.

Rockies Healthcare Foundation will have their 1st Annual Octoberfest On Saturday, October 3, 2009 at the Joe Meagher Memorial Civic Center featuring The Cold Hard Cash Show.

Reminders:

Chamber Up Social September 8th at BJ's Casino. Jeff also asked the board members to make an effort to attend the Chamber Up Socials as the representation from the Chamber is very poor. The businesses put a lot of effort and expense to put this on for the public.

Scott Laird made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Robert Carette