

**Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes**  
**November 4, 2009**  
**Cut Bank Development Center – Noon**

**Directors in Attendance:** Mike Bruch, James Laidlaw, Stephanie Browning, LeAnne Kavanagh, Virginia Harman, Scott Laird, Jeff Billman, Robert Carette, Dawn Barrett, Josh Larson

**Executive Director:** Amy Overstreet

**Directors Absent:** Gloria Taylor & Tippy Burtch

**Guests Attending:** Tracy Puryear, Tom Shock, Jerilee Wilkerson

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Billman at around 12 noon.

The minutes from the previous meeting were presented for approval. LeAnne Kavanagh moved to approve the minutes as presented and Mike Bruch seconded the motion. Being no further discussion, the minutes were approved unanimously.

The monthly financial report was distributed to each board member. The \$3,420 rebate from Glacier Electric on the Christmas Lights was not included in this month's report. James Laidlaw moved to accept the financial report as presented and Stephanie Browning seconded it. With no further discussion the motion was approved unanimously.

**Old Business:**

Amy reported on October's activities. The CTEP project at the Visitor Center is going really well. The only item she still needs bids for is the teepee. There is \$24,000 remaining in the CTEP budget to complete the Visitor's Center project. Lara Poulton donated all her time for choosing the paint colors and other misc. work she did for the visitor center. The board decided to publish a thank you in the paper acknowledging her contribution and to give her 2 tickets to the Trees & Keys would be a nice gift for our appreciation. There is a little more landscaping to do outside the center as well as installing the sprinklers. The membership drive letters have been sent out as well as a new web page called "Why We Live in Cut Bank and Think You Should, Too."

The Festival of Trees & Keys was discussed at length. The tickets are going for \$25/each or \$300 for reserved table of 8. The Den/BJ's is doing the bar. A youth group is doing the set up and clean up. Each director needs to bring an appetizer for 20 people. Joe Gauthier is doing security for the evening. There was a lot of discussion about the Hospital Auxiliary getting insurance for their portion of the event. To date they are not sure if they have insurance through the hospital. LeAnne is going to have little cards printed up that say "Bidding Etiquette" and they will be handed out to people as they walk in the door. At previous Festival of Trees silent auctions, as well as during other events, there have been problems/issues with how some attendees do their bidding. Hopefully this will tactfully alleviate those problems/issues.

Jeff explained that a work night for the upcoming Festival of Lights will be Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the Civic Center. On Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6 a.m. the lights will begin being put up at the Courthouse for the early birds – otherwise be there @ 8 a.m. That same evening at 5 p.m. if you cannot help during the day we will

need help at the Visitor's Center putting up lights there. Tippy will have refreshments afterwards.

The Sons of Norway donated \$1,000 to the Chamber's Christmas Lights Fund and Billman's Inc. will match the amount, said Jeff. With \$2,000 available, Jeff is going to see if we can get red and green LED lights for the entire courthouse. Stephanie Browning requested an ad for the newspaper for the parade and everyone agreed that was a good idea and that the ad should include a line stressing "No Wanna-Be Santas at the Civic Center". LeAnne said Pete Hetherington is going to be the emcee for the evening. MBI from the middle school will be serving cookies, coffee and cocoa and running the ballot boxes. Brenda Schilling is putting together a caroling choir of high school students and Kate Rude Gordon's husband will be the Santa at the Civic Center and Ernie Stomsvik is the Grand Marshall for the parade.

Amy gave an update on the park stage cover as Lara Poulton was not at the meeting. It seems there was a huge misunderstanding between Lara and the engineer as Lara called him with our follow-up questions and he explained that the \$8 - \$10,000 was strictly for the "engineering" costs. Not for any material costs. Lara apologized for the confusion. The structure will cost approximately \$50 per square foot and there is a 10 year warranty on the fabric. The board decided to continue to research the options further.

#### **New Business:**

Scott Laird made a motion to approve the audit on the Board of Directors election which will be done by Northern Montana Insurance and James Laidlaw seconded the motion. We all agreed that a Chamber Gift Certificate would be appropriate as a Thank You for them.

The Holiday Lighting Donations for the Christmas Lights is going well. Jeff said he would look into the red and green lights for the Courthouse as LeAnne made a motion to use the donated money toward getting this done for next year and Robert Carette seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

#### **Visitors Comments:**

Jerilee Wilkerson talked to us about an "unofficial" group of people working on beautifying the Main Street of Cut Bank. They are going to start with Central Park (concrete park) and branch out from there. They want to use both the City and County CTEP funds to do it.

#### **Reminders:**

Work night for Christmas Lights @ Civic Center, November 10 @ 5:30 p.m.  
Chamber Up Social at the Willow Creek Salon on November 11<sup>th</sup>.  
Festival of Lights work day on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30/8:00 a.m./5 p.m.  
Lunch 'n' Learn at the library on Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> @ 12 noon.