

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

Directors in Attendance: Mike Bruch, James Laidlaw, LeAnne Kavanagh, Gloria Taylor, Virginia Harman, Jeff Billman, Josh Larson, Tippy Burtch, Robert Carette, Dawn Barrett,

Executive Director: Amy Overstreet

Directors Absent: Scott Laird, Stephanie Browning

Guests Attending: Tracy Puryear, Tom Shock, Jerilee Wilkerson, Carson & Marilyn Dunk, Ron Bealer, Tim Curtiss

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Billman at around 12:05

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

The monthly financial report was not given due the absence of Treasurer Scott Laird. .

Old Business:

Amy reported on November's activities. The CTEP project at the Visitor Center continues to do great. The underground sprinklers at the Visitor Center had to be redone as they were not laid in the designated areas. Due to the costs related to the teepee project, Amy wanted the Chamber directors input as whether to proceed with the plans to erect a metal teepee next to the Visitor Center. The designer fee will be \$1000 and the construction of the teepee would be \$11,500. The directors felt this was too high and something else could be done with the \$26,000 left from the CTEP funds. Terry Voeller will be contacted to get more input into what can be done.

The Festival of Trees & Keys' setup will be Thursday starting at 7 p.m. with the help of the Girl Scout Cadet Troop 3324. Each director is asked to bring an appetizer to feed 20 people and have at the Civic Center by 6:20 p.m. on Friday. Tickets sales are down from last year. Between 150 to 170 tickets have been sold along with 10 reserved tables. The tickets are going for \$25 each or \$300 for reserved table of 8. The Den/BJ's is doing the bar. The Girl Scout Troop will also do the clean up. Joe Gauthier will handle security for the evening.

Jeff thanked all the Chamber directors who helped with the Festival Parade of Lights. A large crowd attended the festivities at the Civic Center after the parade. The "Jolly Jumper" trampoline was huge success with the kids. The entertainment was great. Suggestions for next year is to get a better sound system, put an age and height limit on the "Jolly Jumper" participants, more directors are needed for the different activities happening, possibly no candy throwing from the floats as it is too dangerous at night, and to do something with the parking around the Courthouse.

Jeff stated all the Christmas lights have been replaced with LED lights. Jeff was very thankful to have the help of Dan Raemaker's "Genie" lift to help hang the lights at the courthouse. Jeff said his Dad, Rick Billman, and he are looking for someone else to take over the lighting project.

Four new memberships have joined the Chamber so far. Memberships received to date are 72.

New Business:

The election results for the new board members are: Treasure Berkram, Stephanie Browning, and Carson Dunk. Those leaving the board of directors will be LeAnne Kavanagh, Mike Bruch, and James Laidlaw. Jeff thanked them for their hard work and dedication to the Chamber.

The Chamber's annual meeting will be January 20, 2010 at noon. The place of the meeting is to be announced at a later date. Jeff would like all committee reports turned in as soon as possible.

The annual banquet is tentatively set for March 19, 2010. The speaker will be announced at a later date.

President Jeff Billman reported on the executive committee's evaluation of Executive Director Amy Overstreet. Billman reiterated the committee's praise of Overstreet's job performance this past year, noting that members of the board of directors had also expressed to him what a great job Amy has done for the Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce. The Executive Committee recommended Overstreet receive a \$650 bonus as well as a \$1 per hour increase to her pay for her contract year, 2009-2010. They also recommended the new contract include language stating Overstreet will receive six weeks paid maternity leave. She is expecting the family's third child in late February/early March. The final draft of the contract was not ready for approval at the meeting. The board tentatively approved the recommendation of the executive committee and will formally adopt the recommendation and act on the approval of Amy's 2009-2010 contract at the January 6, 2010 meeting.

Visitors Comments:

Jerilee Wilkerson reported CBDC is working with Merle Shortmen to find financing for cardboard recycling. The Beautification Board is working on plans as what to do with the Cement Park. The airport commission continues their effort to get potable water to the airport.

Ron Bealer passed out information regarding period lighting for the downtown area using the CTEP funds.

Reminders:

Chamber Up Social December 8th at First American Title.
No Lunch 'n' Learn for this month.

James Laidlaw moved to adjourn the meeting seconded by Tippy Burtch.