

Cut Bank Area Chamber of Commerce Minutes
February 4, 2009

Directors in Attendance: Jeff Billman, Stephanie Browning, Josh Larson, Tippy Burtch, Scott Laird, James Laidlaw, Bob Clary, Mike Bruch and LeAnne Kavanagh

Executive Director: Amy Overstreet

Directors Absent but Excused: Gloria Taylor

Directors Unexcused: Robert Carette and Steve Bucher

Guests Attending: Mike Koepke, Carson and Marilyn Dunk, Dawn Barrett and Tracy Puryear

The January 21 minutes were approved on by a motion by Scott Laird with a seconded by Mike Bruch. Motion carried.

The 2008 Financial Report and Review by Val Vermulm, which was presented at the annual meeting Jan. 21, was formally approved by a motion from LeAnne Kavanagh and second by James Laidlaw. Motion carried.

The approval of the January Financial Report was made on a motion from Bob Clary and seconded by Tippy Burtch. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Executive Director Amy Overstreet reported on the following:

*Break In: Window coverings for the Visitor's Information Center were priced by Doug Vermulm of Billman's Home Décor with bids coming in at approximately \$125/window or more energy efficient cellular shades at \$220/window. The cellular shades are insulated to help with sun protection in the summer and keeping out the cold in the winter. Mike Bruch made a motion to purchase the cellular shades and James Laidlaw seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The door is temporarily fixed and it was reported that a new set of commercial doors will run around \$3,500.

*Computer Purchase: The new computer was \$700 and was ordered at a savings of \$400. Amy requested a new virus protection as the McAfee protection is about to expire. Bob Clary made a motion to purchase the Norton Anti Virus Protection and Mike Bruch second the motion.

*Website Development: Amy reported that the development is going great. She encourages everyone to look at the site. They are in the process of re-categorizing all the businesses by "type." There have been 375 visits to the site since January 19, which is equal to 12 visits per day.

*Membership Drive: 136 members have joined to date with only two restaurants so far.

New Business:

*New Chamber Logo: Chip Harman would trade for advertising on the Chamber web page to design our new logo. He originally wanted \$200 to do the logo and

that would give the Chamber complete control of the logo. We looked at three different logos and Scott Laird made a motion to adopt the second logo with the option of trading advertising with Chip. Josh Larson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

*Website Advertising: Amy explained two different options for our website advertising. The first being a small spot at the top of the screen with a line of text and a larger spot at the bottom of the screen which could potentially be a slide show of businesses. There was a lot of discussion concerning only allowing chamber members to advertise on this site. Each member could be listed on up to three categories without additional charges. It was also discussed about having possible free links for non-profit organization like churches, etc.

*Budget: Bob Clary expressed that there will be increases in expenses and revenues due to payroll, etc. He will have all information concerning the budget available to us at the first March meeting.

*Banquet: It was decided to hold this year's banquet on Saturday, April 4 at the Civic Center. Ideas for speakers were: U.S. Congressman Dennis Rehberg, the Bop-a-dips, Bar, Bed and Blues, which would charge \$500 for the night and a phone call has been made to Flint Rasmussen. Jeff will ask the Firemen to cook prime rib but will first check to see if that date will work for them.

*Approve Amy as Project Manger of CTEP projects: The board postponed action on this item until a copy of her duties and the grant have been reviewed and discussed by the directors.

*Swimming Pool: March is the big kick off for this project. Tom Shock will keep us apprised of whether there will be a water fountain of some sort included. We will be looking at a catalog to pick out a piece of equipment since we are around \$4,000 over our projected amount needed.

*Lewis & Clark Festival: Stephanie Browning will chair the committee with Josh Larson agreeing to co-chair. Stephanie and former chairman Nola Peterson will meet after Stephanie returns from vacation on Feb. 19th to discuss what all needs to be done in order to start the process of a successful weekend. Josh Larson expressed his concerns above having committee members who are not active be a part of the Lewis & Clark Committee as in past years. He instead wished to have committee members who were willing to work.

Amy Overstreet gave Stephanie a list of volunteers from the membership list that are willing to help with the weekend. Sissy Nygaard agreed to continue to be the Secretary and Scott Laird will be the new Treasurer. Tippy Burtch agreed to help and can maybe convince the Car Club to join the festivities again. There was discussion about having the Lewis & Clark Committee meld into the Chamber but for now Steph would like to see it a separate entity at least until she has met with Nola.

It was expressed that the mayor, who was a member of the committee, scared a lot of people away last year and with the CBHS 2010 All-School Reunion coming up we really need to have a fresh start and a successful event in 2009.

Steph talked to Gordon Day and he is willing to help in anyway he can to get gymnasts here as well as the bagpipers, etc. This year's Lewis & Clark weekend is July 24 – 26.

Visitor Comments:

*Mike Koepke is requested a letter of support from the Chamber for the grant he is writing for the airport. The grant is for the engineering study for the project, which will determine the best way to get potable water at the airport.

Announcements: The next meeting is the Lunch & Learn on Wednesday, February 11 with Mayor Stewart and the Cut Bank City Council, at noon, at Glacier Electric. Bring your own lunch. The Randy Matz Benefit is Friday, Feb, 6 at the Elks Club.

James Laidlaw made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second by Bob Clary. Meeting adjourned somewhere around 1 p.m.