



Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 16th, 2023 at 11am via Zoom

Attendees

Eric Bjornson, Laurence Bertram, Heather Parrott-Howdle, Reghan Langston, Nigel Kerr, Valerie Soltys, Brandice Bator

Minutes

1. Approval of Agenda
 2. Welcome to associate members
 - Cody Cameron (council representative from Clanwilliam Erickson)
 - Gloria Campbell (council representative from Harrison Park)
 - Elvin Huntinghawk (representative from Rolling River First Nation)
 3. Approval of February Minutes
 - Motion Val second Laurence carried
 4. Approval of new members:
 - Empress Therapies
 - Pugh's Pumping / Parkland Plumbing & Heating
 - Motion heather, second Nigel carried
 5. Treasurer's report (Valerie Soltys)
 - Invoice for cleaning of the napkins from the Christmas Party from Brandon Cleaners
 6. Recruiting a Chamber Manager. Consider ACC or RRC student?
 7. Informal (monthly) Coffee Meetings organized by the Chamber (various venues)
 - discuss things that are important to business owners
 - held in the legion (Erickson), drop in center (Sandy Lake), community center (Onanole) – every 2 months (rotate through) = twice a year in each location –
 - time of day? Business people are busy during the day, could be a bag lunch meeting
 - would be good to host in coffee shops
 - hold on 3rd Tuesday starting April 18th – Newdale would be the first spot – Nigel will mention to owners – 1:00 PM
 - Chamber Views and News
 8. Considering sponsorship of the 1st annual Altitude Festival (led by The Score Store)
 - a. \$250-\$500
 - Sponsorship to become a partner
 - Willing to commit \$250 in first year
 - may have call for volunteers – event ambassadors
 - Motion to support this festival (Heather) – seconded by Nigel – all in favor
 - Link from Chamber website: Eric will find out more about what's involved – link to it so that it doesn't seem like it's a Chamber event
 9. Correspondence from RMNP re: AIS
 - Going to announce in next few weeks what the plans are
 - Possible increased screening of watercraft or the restriction of type of watercraft that can go onto Clear Lake
 - Don't want to divert problems to other local lakes
 - Doing a consultation process – if we have views as a business community or as individuals let this be heard
 - Ability for individual businesses to get certification to conduct decontaminations – Clean Machine?
 10. Support for Erickson Airport Repaving
 - Got the tender back for the smaller scope with the opportunity to grow it
 - May be a call for private support to help with project, grant funding, Building Sustainable Communities, call the MLA
 11. Updating the Membership Directory (temporary until we have a Chamber Manager to keep it up to date)
 - Eric having trouble finding time keeping this up if anyone wants to help reach out to Eric
 - Previous members have not been asked to renew – Eric will send an email
 12. Summary of RMED Event attended by Eric on Feb 22nd 2023
 - a. RMED related Documents
 - Eric attended – intro of representatives from a bunch of organizations to help Rural Economic Development
 - PrairiesCan may have programs to fit nicely with Leda Lake project (see agenda item 13)
 - Email sent to Gerry Marques at PrairiesCan- Eric will be meeting with Laurie Crowe from Prairies Can to discuss further
 - Laurence talked to someone re Erickson being included in travel magazines for the area – getting information on who Westman Tourism and how do we get in publication
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13. Membership Drive Update

- Eric will send email to membership to renew
- Email list of everyone we can think of who might want to be a member

14. Updates on presentations to Municipal councils of Clanwilliam Erickson and Harrison Park (Nigel and Laurence)

- Clanwilliam Erickson – not very receptive, asked for copy of presentation, concerned about what we'd be asking for from Harrison Park, by-law that businesses are supposed to clean sidewalks
- Harrison Park – positive reception, charging stations at Elkhorn, appointed a rep to come to meetings (Gloria), asked if we were coordinating with Onanole Chamber of Commerce (doesn't exist anymore?), there is a Wasagaming Chamber of Commerce – association with Clear Lake Country destination marketing – overlap between Erickson and Wasagaming Chambers,
- Having Chamber reps from council might help with them understanding our objectives and mission
- Should be a partnership not territorial –
- Motion for Eric to represent Erickson Chamber to Wasagaming Chamber (Laurence) – could report on agenda on joint ventures
- propose to them that we trade memberships – Eric will reach out
- Clear Lake Country would like to expand geographic location to encompass Erickson, Sandy Lake
- Used to be Sandy Lake Business Association (Nigel) – not sure if it's still a thing

15. Swedish Cultural Day June 10, 2023

- Laurence is working on tour of heritage site and cemeteries
- Most of the rest is being organized by that group – speaker lined up, family histories, refreshments, lunch at the legion, outdoor traditional dancing at the end of 1st street SW near TransCanada trail
- Valerie has tickets \$25 – meal and attendance for the day
- Will put on Chamber calendar and share on social media
- Regional events/festivals will be added to the Chamber calendar going forward (non-profits)
- Would like Chamber to advertise and sell tickets

16. Updates on support for Little Valley Jamboree (Valerie) (June 17/18)

- a. Event Support Staff
 - Have 5 organizations confirmed to be part of the food and beverage side of Jamboree (Lions - bar, Curling/Skating rinks -menu, Fire department/chamber – support staff)
 - Need volunteers from membership base
 - Meeting on April 3, May 1 to continue planning
 - Is there someone from the Chamber who could take a lead role to take lead of the organization – liaison between Jamboree fundraising committee and local community volunteer committee
 - Laurence – will look after parade
 - Townwide yard sale – will discuss further at next meeting
 - Opportunity to coach up and coming volunteers
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17. Highway Signage Discussion (Nigel Kerr). Perhaps call this destination marketing?

- Sign at east end main street has bulbs burnt out – could be a bill that comes to the Chamber – leave with town office for now and Val will follow up
- Our information/calendar should be shared on town/municipal website – liaison between us and them for website – what do they need, updates, etc. – Could be a Chamber Manager opportunity

18. In Camera

Meeting Adjourned at 12:30

Action Items:

- Nigel: will talk to owners of Newdale Hotel about holding the first Chamber Views and News on Tuesday April 18th at 1:00
- Eric: will find out more about Altitude Festival and how we could incorporate that event into Chamber website
- Eric: will send emails to previous members have not renewed membership as well as businesses who have not joined but may be interested
- Eric: will reach out to Wasagaming Chamber of Commerce to see if they'd be willing to trade memberships
- Val/Eric: Will share Swedish Cultural Day poster with Eric to post