

The mission of the Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce is to promote Chamber members while enhancing the livability and connectedness of the community.

MINUTES: Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce

Current Executive Board Members: Chair- Josiah Tonder, Vice Chair- Jeremiah Zahnow,
Secretary-Treasurer- Denita Wisniewski

Board Members: Todd Ecker, Andy Otremba, Chris Amundson, Micki Czech, Amy Allen, Toby Polkinhorne

Wednesday, July 24, 2024 – Monthly MEETING 03:30 PM @ City Hall

Board members in attendance: Toby P, Josiah T, Chris A, Micki C

MEETING

1-Call to Order/Roll Call: 3:34 pm

2- Approval of agenda/additions/deletions: Lu changed the agenda by deleting “empowering entrepreneurs” from the director’s report. A motion was made by Micki to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Toby. Motion carried unanimously.

3- Approval of Minutes, additions: Chris moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Jeremiah. Motion carried unanimously.

4- Financial Report: The month of July shows a loss, which is typical of July. Phil double reported some expenses from Prairie Days. Lu will meet with him next week to make corrections. She will email the chamber board after the meeting to share updated numbers. Jeremiah moved to accept the financial report as given, seconded by Micki. Motion carried by a majority.

5- Introduction of new Community/Chamber Members: No new members to report.

6- Director’s Report-

~~**Webpage – EMPOWERING ENTREPRENEURS: THE ENTERPRISE ACADEMY IN LONG PRAIRIE**~~

7- Old Business

- a. Chamber/Tourism Event reports & updates:
Networking events- tomorrow- William Dingman @ MN National Bank
Prairie Days report
 - Networking event to “plan your own funeral” arrive at 11:30, lunch provided, Centra Care hospice to receive the donations
 - Lu will send out a survey for Prairie Days, axe throwing was a bust and 3 on 3 basketball was a huge success. We will try to create a Prairie Days steering committee and have their first meeting in September.Concert in the Park – Malina July 25, August 1 & August 8 – NEED Volunteer for last event
 - We took a financial risk on booking Malina, and the Chamber will be paying for it (not tourism). We need to be ready to cover approximately \$7,000 of potential loss. It will be fine.
 - Chris volunteers to announce at the August 8th concert in the park.
- b. Tourism update: Banners DONE & video banner in the process – web banner link: <https://www.longprairie.net/>
- c. New hire & Work Based Learning students – plan for August...September
- d. By-laws – click link: <https://www.longprairie.org/about-us/> - download from the page

8- New Business

- a. Next meeting location – September - Lake Charlotte or Harmony
 - Jason from the Long Prairie Leader will be a guest at our September meeting

9- Adjourn: 4:42 pm

Minutes prepared by: Micki Czech

Our Core Values:

- ❖ Promoting and connecting Chamber Members
- ❖ Information and Resource Hub
- ❖ Community enhancement

Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce

2024 Strategic Goals

1. Increase Chamber Membership
 - a. Secure 10 new members in either Long Prairie or the surrounding area.
 - b. Show non-members the value of membership by introducing them to the Chamber Website, Facebook page and Membership Benefits flyer.
2. Retain Current Membership –
 - a. Make members feel valued by visiting and calling. Focus on connecting with at least 5 dormant members each month to check-in and remind them of the available membership benefits.
On going
 - b. Promote and share business events and content via the chamber website, Facebook, GMLP Breakfasts, radio, emails etc.
On going
3. Brand the LPACC as the information Hub of Long Prairie
 - a. Send out Bi-weekly emails utilizing direct links for advertisements and events.
On going
 - b. Update the chamber website monthly to ensure it is an efficient and effective way to connect the community with resources
On going
4. Organize Community Development Opportunities
 - a. Facilitate a minimum of 3 classes/workshops per year on various topics. Events can be either in person or virtual.
5. Budget
 - a. Establish a budget committee to meet quarterly to discuss financials.
 - b. Ensure community events are budgeted in the positive.

