

Board Meeting Minutes

April 11th, 2022 @ 12:00pm

The Rural Collective & Via Zoom

**Call to Order & Declaration of Quorum:** Kat Weinert called the meeting to order at 12:02pm and declared a quorum.

**Present:** In Person: Kat Weinert, Ted Uecker, Grace Wolff, Josh Raab, LeAnn Fitch, Cassidy Blade, Tyler Erickson, and Jasmin Fosheim. Via Zoom: Pam Burch, Jacki Christman.

**Ted Uecker made a motion to approve the March Board Meeting Minutes. Grace Wolff 2nd. Motion carried.**

**Financials:** Jasmin Fosheim detailed income and expenses as expressed on the financial statements provided to the board (see attached). Chamber Main Checking showed a balance of $32,687.60; Chamber Savings showed a balance of $29,987.72; Centennial Sales showed a balance of $2,746.99, and Gift Certificate Checking showed a balance of $20,816.93. **Josh Raab made a motion to approve the financial reports as written. Ted Uecker 2nd. Motion carried.**

**Brainstorm Box:** Brainstorm Box activity was cancelled to ensure ample time for agenda items.

**Committee Reports:**

**Chamber Banquet:** Jasmin Fosheim noted that the event ended up being just shy of profitable. She explained that although ticket prices were increased and more tickets were sold than ever before, the cost of adding a band, purchasing additional decorations to accommodate the large number of attendees, and rising costs of food made the budget very tight for this event.

**Helping Hettinger Day:** Jasmin Fosheim reminded the group that Helping Hettinger Day would be held on May 15th. She also requested additional help because her committee member, Jessalyn Bachler, has resigned from the board.

**4th of July:** The 4th of July committee shared that, upon receiving some funding from the Jaycees to help with the cost of inflatables, inflatables have been booked. The committee is still considering theme ideas. The schedule is beginning to come together for the event.

**Rodeo:** Jacki Christman shared an update on the fundraising efforts for the rodeo arena.

**The Rural Collective:** Jasmin Fosheim noted The Rural Collective continues to do well and had no other report.

**Old Business:**

**Newbie Nights:** Kat Weinert shared that plans for a charcuterie board Newbie Night are in the works in partnership with Diamond S Meats, Kennedy’s, and KB Jewelers. The date will not be set until the charcuterie boards have arrived (ordered by KB Jewelers) because of concerns for shipping time. The board also discussed the idea of focusing on quarterly Newbie Nights as opposed to monthly events.

**Mental Health Community Support:** LeAnn Fitch shared that she has organized two showings of The Ripple Effect with Libby Gravning on Friday, April 22nd at 7pm and Saturday, April 23rd at 2pm at the Lutheran Church. When asked what the Chamber could do to support the effort, LeAnn asked to borrow the projector and screen from the Chamber, which the board agreed to.

**Ribbon Cuttings:** Jasmin Fosheim reported that the ribbon cutting for Encompass Therapy will be hosted on May 20th at their place of business. Jasmin requested that as many board members attend as possible. The board discussed potential ideas for subsequent ribbon cuttings and chose to hold off on planning the next until after Commercial Bee Supply’s tentatively scheduled late-spring ribbon cutting.

**Welcome Goodies for New Businesses:** Kat Weinert noted that she requested a quote for the cost of a welcome goodies from the Peacock. The quote came back at $2.50 per decorated cookie. The group debated about the overall goal of the welcome goodies and whether they should be to welcome new members to the Chamber or to welcome new businesses to the community and encourage them to become members. The group also discussed a number of approval options for expenses related to the welcome goodies, such as approving an allotted amount per year for welcome goodies or requesting approval on a per-business basis. In the interest of time, the board agreed to push this discussion to the May meeting.

**South Main Street Billboard (See Attached Sketch & Quote):** Kat Weinert noted that she and Jasmin had been working with one of the newest Chamber member contractors, Nagel Construction & Design, to explore the option of putting a bee-themed billboard up at the south end of Main Street above the brick roundabout wall that says “what’s the buzz” and has space for community members to post posters and notices. This billboard would replace the wheely sign that used to be put in the middle of Main Street. They noted that this would also be a way to beautify south Main Street, provide further advertising opportunities for the Chamber, and provide community members another way to stay informed. The group discussed alternative location options such as on the American Legion lot, along the highway, or in Centennial Square, but the board ultimately determined that south Main Street was the best option. Kat Weinert also noted that installation would be donated to put it up on Helping Hettinger Day if the Chamber approves the project in time. **Ted Uecker moved to approve up to $2,275.00 to construct a community billboard on south Main Street contingent upon approval from the landowner (city or BNSF). Cassidy Blade 2nd. Motion carried.**

**New Business:**

**Stream Team Advertising:** Jasmin Fosheim shared the advertising request letter from the Stream Team for the 2022-2023 school year. **Josh Raab moved to approve purchasing a $400 commercial slot to highlight upcoming Chamber events again. Grace Wolff 2nd. Motion carried.**

**ACDC Board Member Recommendations:** Jasmin Fosheim explained that according to ACDC by-laws, board members for the ACDC board must be recommended to the County Commission by the Chamber of Commerce board. The group brainstormed strong candidates for the board. The final list of recommended individuals includes: Alex or Kathleen Thompson, Rochelle Shirek, Wade Christman, and Sean Weinert.

**Group Fitness Instructors:** Jasmin Fosheim explained that the current group fitness instructors in town were certified by ACE Group Fitness using grant funds secured in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce and West River Health Services. She explained that because Katie Shahan is moving, the community needs a new batch of group fitness instructors. She requested that the board consider funding or partially funding the cost of certifying up to four instructors (about $360/person). Jasmin explained that the protocol for applicants, including an interview, the reimbursement process, and the requirements for teaching classes multiple times a month for the first year after reimbursement are already developed. The group discussed the importance of group fitness classes for the vibrancy and health of the community. Ted Uecker noted concern that other entrepreneurs could become frustrated if the Chamber pays for this training but not their training. The group agreed that group fitness classes are an important component of community vibrancy, which is necessary for population retention and attraction. **Josh Raab moved to sponsor up to four people to become ACE Group Fitness Instructor Certified. Pam Burch 2nd. Motion carried.**

**Jessalyn Bachler Resignation:** The group agreed that the position need not be filled immediately. The board requested that the open position be advertised for the next two months via free means, including TTO, business spotlight pages, and social media. The board requested that interested individuals be invited to the June meeting.

**Benches:** Jasmin Fosheim shared that Loren Luckow requested that the benches be removed from the Granary by May 1st. The group agreed to move benches on April 28th at 3:30. Jacki Christman and Kat Weinert both agreed to bring trailers.

**Next Meeting:**

**Date: May 2nd, 2022 at 12:00 pm**

**Location: The Rural Collective & Via Zoom**

**Meeting adjourned: LeAnn Fitch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ted Uecker 2nd. Motion carried.**