

Minutes of the meeting of the Creston Chamber of Commerce June 15, 2017

1. Call to order and approval of minutes

President Mark Wolfe called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. and asked for approval of the minutes. Michele indicated she wouldn't mind her name being spelled correctly. There being no other changes, the President announced the board will be following more contemporary convention and not requiring a motion to accept minutes, and then simply declared the minutes as accepted.

2. Executive board vote

Vern reported that, as we discussed at our last AGM, the board members were basically approved of that meeting, and that it's the board that decides the executive. Lacking a quorum last meeting, it falls to this meeting to vote on the executive, with it being understood Andrea Lochan's vote would come by proxy and be in favour of ratification. Vern called for any further nominations and there being none, Mark W. Called for a motion to ratify. Megan so moved. Mark S. seconded. Motion was carried

3. Resolution of the ATM proposal and situation.

Mark S. advised that at the last board meeting, attendees arrived at the position that we weren't interested in having an ATM machine for the Chamber of Commerce. And that issue is basically resolved?

4. Resolution of Farmers' Market and use of Chamber washrooms.

Mark W. Requested the board be brought up to speed on this issue. Vern provided a chronology, with Mark. W. Adding relevant bits of info from his own communications with Town of Creston on this issue. Megan Keating suggested it makes sense if market patrons are making use of the space as part of our agreement to give them usage of the back lot, that they would be responsible for cleaning the facilities. Vern further verified that the Chamber's lease agreement with the RDCK was changed specifically to reflect that the washrooms are for the attendants use only and that we are allowing the public to use them but will require users to do the cleaning that the Chamber is neither staffed or financially resourced to provide.

5. Chamber offices and renovations

Mark W. Reported that, due to noise in the system about the number of people going to the Visitors Centre because they couldn't find the Chamber and just lack of good signage all around, he, Vern and Mark S. got together to divine a real quick solutions and agreed to move all Chamber offices across the hall into space currently storage. This would also

take advantage of that angular wall, create a service counter for the Chamber and just re-identify all the space in here appropriately. He also reported that he and Mark S. Would be putting in volunteer hours at the service window starting later in the summer to continue through the fall and that is there room for additional volunteer hours, if any one else on the board was interested. Mark W. Also acknowledged Mark Saunders for the volunteer work he has done and/or led in the renovations.

6. Composting session

Michele reported that Mark she and mark W. attended a workshop that discussed what the town and district could do for composting food waste and indicated what is happening is exciting, as there's a lot of programs in the whole region going on. Discussion ranged around on organic matter getting composted either being used for energy, or for compost dirt and culture use, limitations on garbage bags, and what we could do as a whole region for pick-up and how the waste people could manage it. Mark W. Added points pertaining to methane recovery and indicated his recent travels to Germany verify where they've got this down to an art, and the science such that a big picture opportunity for Creston and all communities is to try to look at ways there could be collection business opportunities or facility operations. He also reminded the board that this is a good example of what we are doing that as an executive and that we'll continue attending these kinds of discussions and workshops. Vern opined that it was exactly this kind of executive engagement that benefits all of us, and indicated it's exciting that the chamber is actually being involved in these things because then it doesn't all fall on the chamber manager to try to do all this stuff.

7. Communications report

Mark W. Reported advances being made with regard to the Chamber's new website and that one of the main things he was interested in doing, first and foremost, was repatriating the website and bringing it more in-house so that we would have access to it for more timely, and updates under our own control. After commending Vern for putting up a basic framework for site, Megan suggested the new site will send the clear message that we really are about business, and not just about Creston. Mark W. Also reported on an interview completed with Lorne Eckersley of the Creston Valley Advance and what was over-view in that, viz., The renos and renewed focus on engaging important conversations going on in Creston.

8. Constitution updating

Mark S. Updated the board on efforts made to go through the constitution and identify areas of improvement that we can do readily. He also referenced Cranbrook's bylaws and that we can effectively crib from their constitution – with appropriate modifications, in-

cluding what constitutes a quorum, and what constitutes a board. How many members are needed for it? the terms in office and so on. Discussion then ensued on key elements such as succession planning, board recruitment and optimum size. Mark W. Suggested a committee be struck to manage the constitution review and revision process. Michelle so moved, seconded by Megan that Mark S. Lead this committee with Brian Lawrence also involved.

9. Market Park discussions

Mark S. Reported that two days prior to the public hearing on the OCP, we got a request from City Hall to submit a letter of support from the Chamber of Commerce to that draft and that we provided that letter. He indicated that Lou Varela thinks that they should hear something back in the fall on that. And we basically told the town that we support the principles of the OCP, we're behind that.

10. Gala update

Vern reported on planning a gala for the first week of October, and this was going to be a prelude to the gold rush that we're maybe planning on having in the coming years but with Traven leaving the board, it kind of changed things a little bit such that maybe the gala this year just isn't the right move. In the meantime, Megan has proposed the possibility of doing a vendor event in the fall to coincide with the holiday selling season, similar to our spring trade show Upon going and searching for space, she reported she did go through and look at numbers and spoke with the Rec Centre. With anticipated total expenses of about \$1900 and if we did \$60 a table for 47 booths the Chamber could net about \$3000. Ensuing discussion covered having a food truck come on site and/or having a Chamber table where we have pop and chips and crockpot chilli and buns. And that with 25 vendors already confirmed on the idea, without doing much legwork, we're already halfway there. Vern suggested a motion be made for approving this project. So moved by Megan, seconded by Mark S.

11. Blossom Festival slow pitch

Vern reported that discussion with Chad Robichaud – a big softball player, a slow-pitch player – has produced useful intelligence on expenses pertaining to holding a ball tournament in the spring and that discussions with Bev Caldwell regarding aligning this with the blossom festival and that they would happily endorse the event. Mark S. Added the Rec centre is already also on side. Discussion then focused on expected costs and benefits, details TBA.

12. Dragon's Den

Vern reported that one of the things he's been looking at doing with our gala night was to have a Dragon's Den night to get new businesses that have gone through the LEAP pro-

gram, or through the community features program, or just someone that has a great business idea and they want to present just like Dragon's Den. The idea was that with the gala, after supper we would have an hour of entertainment where we had this Dragon's Den. And in between each act, we'd have some entertainment. It would give people a chance after they eat to just relax and just enjoy. They would have a chance to vote and it could be a really great time. Timed for small business week, the third week of October. Moved by Megan to proceed with planning on this event, seconded by Brian.

Relatedly, Vern also proposed a few new ideas to enhance networking opportunities, including tying in a networking casino night or something with our AGM. We could bring in a good speaker, and then after the speaker and after all the stuff we have to deal with is done, then we have a casino night, and we just have some fun where every one of these events can be used to promote ourselves to get more membership.

13. New board members

Mark W. Requested Vern overview the board on new members. He reported that Kim Garriety, president of the College of the Rockies, has said yes. Megan moved to accept Kim as a new member. Michele seconded. Vern then reported that Ralph Genya – a former board member for a number of years but he timed out because he was on it for six years – has been very willing to help out and volunteer and that sort of thing, and I wouldn't mind bringing Ralph back. Ralph's a good guy. To be ratified next board meeting.

14. Adjournment

There being no other new business, Mark W. Declared the meeting adjourned.