



BARAGA COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Our mission is to grow, enhance, and support a vibrant business climate through leadership, professional development, and community involvement.

*Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, August 2, 2023 - 8:30 AM  
Chamber of Commerce Conference Room*

**Call Meeting to Order** - President Debbie Stouffer called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM.

**BCCC Mission Statement** - The mission statement was read by Jacob Ostermeyer.

**Roll Call -**

- Board Present: Debbie Stouffer, Carla Engle, Nathan Grave, Mary Stafford, Megan Haataja, Jacob Ostermeyer, Annie Cranford.
- Staff Present: Mary Mervar, Dianne Koskinen.
- Board Absent: Trevor Juntunen, Chelsea Klobucher (excused). Nicole Acciacca, Burt Mason.

**Guests and Visitors** - None.

**Consent Agenda -**

- Agenda 8/2/23, Minutes 6/7/23.  
*Discussion:* Additional Action Item ( c ) Donation requests.  
**Action:** Motion to approve the consent agenda with addition by Jacob Ostermeyer, supported by Nathan Grave. All in favor.

**Finance Report -**

- May Finance Report.
  - Main Account
    - 7/1/23 \$54,719.32, 7/31/23 \$69,148.89.
  - NextGen Account
    - 7/1/23 \$11,462.89, 7/31/23 \$11,734.11.

*Discussion:* None.

**Action:** Motion to approve the July 2023 Finance Report by Megan Haataja, supported by Carla Engle. All in favor.

**Support Staff Report -**

- Letters of thanks presented to the board from Camp 911 and LHS Senior party.
- Word From the Chamber for August newsletter is available for authoring.
- The \$2,500 TV6 Auction was won by BCMH with a high bid of \$1,776.50.
- Frozen Cup has been set-up on eventbrite and a flyer has been created.
- September 28 the SBA will be here for a Business During Hours open house. October 19 the Chamber is partnering with KBOCC to host Grow With Google workshops. Attendees are crucial to making these events a success and board support is requested.

- Golf tournament raised \$8,214.73 for the Chamber, \$1,583.29 lower than 2022. The cost of food was nearly the same, but the biggest reason for the drop is that net sponsorship was down a bit; one reason being a gold sponsor from last year has upgraded to Platinum membership which includes a golf team entry. Also, there were fewer public (and overall) teams this year paying entry fees and buying raffle tickets.

#### **Action Items -**

- (a) Purchase of CD.

*Discussion:* Interest rates and the financial position of the Chamber were discussed.

**Action:** Motion to invest \$30,000 in a 5 month Certificate of Deposit at Superior National Bank with interest reinvested and earnings designated for the Chamber scholarship fund by Jacob Ostermeyer, supported by Megan Haataja. All in favor.

- (b) Financial support for Rural Readiness Grant.

*Discussion:* The Chamber is partnering with WUPPDR, L'Anse Township, and Village of L'Anse in applying for a MDA Rural Readiness Grant, which will fund exploration and planning to develop middle income housing in Baraga County. The community has raised \$9,000, WUPPDR has contributed \$10,000, the grant (if awarded) will be \$50,000. The Chamber mission statement and contributions to on-going and future community projects was discussed.

**Action:** Motion to donate \$1,000 to the Rural Readiness Grant project if the grant is awarded by Nathan Grave, supported by Jacob Ostermeyer. All in favor.

- (c) Donation requests.

*Discussion:* Two donation requests were received. One from KBIC PowWow, another from Copper Shores Community Health Foundation supporting UPSET.

**Action:** No action taken.

#### **Discussion Items -**

- (a) Lemonade Days: Tabled until someone volunteers to head up this project and/or communication is established with the schools. Megan will bring it up to the KBOCC to see if a class would take this on as a project. Debbie said Lori Wisniewski (BAS Superintendent) will be at the September meeting and we can reach out to her at that time.
- (b) Other organizations' needs: Discussed in Action Items (a) regarding the financial position of the Chamber and (b) regarding the Chamber mission statement and how it relates to our financial contributions. Surveying the community to uncover needs (as discussed in the June meeting) will not be pursued.
- (e) Keweenaw Bay Frozen Cup: Rich Wickstrom, Lacy Hollon, and Debbie Stouffer have formed a Frozen Cup committee and the hockey tournament will be held on December 15-17, 2023.

#### **Board Training - None.**

## **Committees Updates -**

- Next Gen: Glow golf has 8 teams signed up so far. Need 15 teams to cover the expenses.
- Events: see Events Committee notes in board packet.
- OpCom: see OpCom Committee notes in board packet.
- Membership: Approximately 50% of Chamber members have renewed for 2023-2024.
- Housing Taskforce: Mary Stafford reported four items discussed at the housing meeting she recently attended: middle class workforce housing needs, elderly looking to downsize, regulation of vacation rentals, and contractor permits.
- Branding: no report.
- Scholarship: no report.

## **Announcements / Members' Good News - None**

**Next Meeting** - The next BCCC board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 8:30 AM in the Chamber Board Room.

## **Adjournment -**

**Action:** Motion to adjourn at 9:28 AM by Jacob Ostermeyer, supported by Nathan Grave. All in favor.

DK 8/2/23