



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

BARAGA COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

*Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, September 6, 2023 - 8:30 AM  
Chamber of Commerce Conference Room*

**Call Meeting to Order** - President Debbie Stouffer called the meeting to order at 8:34 AM.

**BCCC Mission Statement** - The mission statement was read by Burt Mason.

**Roll Call** -

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

**Guests and Visitors** - Gordette Leutz, Executive Director, Baraga County Community Foundation, presented the activities of the Foundation.

**Consent Agenda** -

- Agenda 9/6/23, Minutes 8/2/23.  
*Discussion:* Addition to agenda Discussion items (d) scholarship thank you.  
*Action:* Motion to approve the consent agenda with addition by Burt Mason, supported by Nathan Grave. All in favor.

**Finance Report** -

- August Finance Report.
  - Main Account
    - 8/1/23 \$69,148.89, 8/31/23 \$39,069.02.
  - NextGen Account
    - 8/1/23 \$11,734.11, 8/31/23 \$10,721.20.

*Discussion:* \$30,000 was used to purchase a CD. Identogo payment was \$206, up from \$200, an inquiry needs to be made regarding the reason for the change. Payment for the website will be assigned to Administrative Professional Fees.  
*Action:* Motion to approve the August 2023 Finance Report by Megan Haataja, supported by Burt Mason. All in favor.

**Support Staff Report** -

- SBAM Meet and Greet will be held on September 28. The Board is encouraged to attend and invite others.

**Action Items** -

None.

## Discussion Items -

- (a) Keweenaw Bay and Beyond Frozen Cup: The tournament has been registered with MAHA. Debbie is working on tournament organization with Rich Wickstrom. The Chamber will be hiring officials for \$15 per game with a two game minimum.
- (b) ATV Wilderness Adventure: Guides are needed. Pasties will be sold. Two practice rides for guides will be held September 16 and 24. Rules to the guides went out. Guides will be given a hat, a pasty, a gift card, and the navigation app if they desire. Mt. Arvon certificates will be provided by the CVB. Dianne will email past participants and share the event with ATV groups on facebook.
- (c) Community Investment: The executive committee identified and prioritized three areas for Chamber involvement in the Baraga County community within our mission statement. The consensus of the group was that the investment should focus on business support, not youth sports. On recommendation of the Treasurer, our investment should be in the one time range of \$30,000 or annually at the approximate level of \$10,000.
- (i) Housing Initiatives
- (ii) Childcare - SPARK program provides training and financial assistance to individuals who want to start a daycare business in their home. The Chamber will sponsor a candidate for the SPARK program. Megan and Chelsea will comprise a committee to interview the applicants and select a candidate from the applicants, conducting a background check on the final candidate. Advertising will be conducted on social media and locally. Dianne will contact Joyce at Eagle Radio to request them to present it on their morning talk show. Applicants will apply by email to the Chamber.
- Action:** Motion to earmark \$10,000 (with actual \$6,000 to \$10,000) to sponsor a SPARK candidate by Nathan Grave, supported by Chelsea Klobucher. All in favor.
- (iii) Business Advertising
- (d) Scholarship thank you - A thank you letter from MaKayla Smith, scholarship recipient, was read.

## Board Training - None.

## Committees Updates -

- Next Gen: Glow golf lost \$289. It was a learning experience and changes will be made for next year. They received the last \$500 due from the fishing tournament. Youth hockey was discussed.
- Events: see Events Committee notes in board packet.
- OpCom: see OpCom Committee notes in board packet.
- Membership: Second invoices will go out October 1 to those who have not renewed for 2023-2024.
- Housing Taskforce: No report.

- Branding: No report.
- Scholarship: no report.

**Announcements / Members' Good News -**

- HILPA reported on lighthouse renovations.
- CVB annual meeting will be held the first Monday in October at the CVB office at 4:15 PM.

**Next Meeting** - The next BCCC board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at 8:30 AM in the Chamber Board Room.

**Adjournment -**

**Action:** Motion to adjourn at 9:42 AM by Nathan Grave, supported by Carla Engle. All in favor.

DK 9/28/23