

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 Nathan Grave.

Roll Call -

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

Guests and Visitors - None.

Consent Agenda -

- Agenda 10/4/23, Minutes 9/6/23.
Discussion: None.
Action: Motion to approve the consent agenda by Burt Mason, supported by Jacob Ostermeyer. All in favor.

Finance Report -

- August Finance Report.
 - Main Account
 - 9/1/23 \$39,069.02, 9/30/23 \$35,927.94.
 - NextGen Account
 - 9/1/23 \$10,721.20, 9/30/23 \$10,721.20.

Discussion: Because of the way the month fell, rent was taken out 9/1/23 and 9/28/23.
Action: Motion to approve the September 2023 Finance Report by Jacob Ostermeyer, supported by Burt Mason. All in favor.

Support Staff Report -

- Thank you from Kaleidoscope for the Battle of the Books donation was read.
- SBAM Meet and Greet was held on September 28. There was a good turnout, 19 signed in, SBAM pleased. Expenses came to \$244.06. Leftover food was donated to Baraga County Shelter Home and Ripple Recovery Home.
- Quickbooks is close to being straightened up. Ryan has been working on old entries and showing Dianne what she needs to do.
- Grow with Google October 19. Sign up requires a Google account or ask Mary to assist.

Action Items -

- (a) Donation request received from KBIC for the Chelsea LaFernier Domestic Violence Awareness walk.

Discussion: Member affiliate, gave \$100 last year.

Action: Motion to donate \$100 to the Chelsea LaFernier Domestic Violence Awareness walk by Burt Mason, supported by Nathan Grave. All in favor.

Discussion Items -

- (a) Community investment options / SPARK Childcare: There were a few inquiries about SPARK but no one applied. Debbie will check to see if it is available again and the Chamber will advertise with a longer application period. Increasing the donation was discussed. The other two community investment options were housing and business promotion. A business / commerce promotional campaign was discussed as a second option to SPARK. This would be an additional member benefit. TV6 Grey Media and Platypus were suggested as well as considering spending \$10,000 on this effort with the focus on business and secondary focus on tourism.
- (b) Donation policy: Reviewed. Send to Op-Com for edits.
- (c) 2024 budget: The budget will be voted on in November. Nathan will have figures ready for next month. Suggestions were to increase donations from \$1,550 to \$3,000, increase annual meeting/member appreciation banquet from \$1,500 to \$2,500, \$2,000 for Tour the County (send to OpCom for naming), \$10,000 for community investment.
- (d) Boo on the Bay: Friday, October 13. Dianne will purchase treats for approximately 500 participants with an approximate budget of \$250 and will hand-out treats on behalf of the Chamber.
- (e) ATV Wilderness Adventure: \$4,648.77 proceeds, waiting on a few expenses-- Homestead bill for decals and hats, Erin Connor photography, and airhorns. Riders came from Nebraska, Wisconsin, and lower Michigan. Approximately 80 machines were on the ride with two machines having difficulties. The group that got distanced from their group last year returned this year. Two of the participants reported they first met on this ride a few years ago, subsequently married, and will return each year. A suggestion was made to place a long-term poster at the CVB (Dianne). Walkie-talkies for guides would be helpful.

Board Training - None.

Committees Updates -

- Next Gen: Have entered a quiet period. Next event is Old Timers Hockey Tournament. They are looking to establish a slate of officers, but want to remain under the Chamber umbrella.
- Events: see Events Committee notes in board packet. Hockey meeting tomorrow.
- OpCom: see OpCom Committee notes in board packet.
- Membership: Memberships are 102 paid, 38 renewals pending. Second invoices were issued 9/27/23.

- Housing Taskforce: WUPPDR's application for a Rural Housing Grant was accepted. Fourteen were awarded statewide with 3 in the Upper Peninsula. Grant is \$50,000, \$10,000 has been raised locally, the Chamber committed to \$1,000. This grant enables creation of a Community Development Corporation (non-profit) that will have the ability to own/sell housing. There is an 80 acre parcel in L'Anse Township that is being looked at for creating a mid-income housing development.
- Branding: No report.
- Scholarship: no report.

Announcements / Members' Good News -

- Community discussions are being held about the consolidation of Baraga and L'Anse schools. A survey is being looked at for October 2023, being placed on the November 2024 ballot, for a July 2025 start.
- Carla's Bears Den is officially open.
- Chelsea talked about an idea she saw, sort of like a scavenger hunt or a checklist of places to see in Baraga County, with a drawing for a give-away. The Chamber would like to possibly steer this more toward commerce and visiting member businesses, perhaps taking a photo at each business, or collecting a sales receipt from each business. Further discussion was held regarding using this idea to encourage Board members to attend Chamber events, for instance, with a bingo card or a ticket. This idea will be sent to the event committee for further discussion.

Next Meeting - The next BCCC board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 8:30 AM in the Chamber Board Room.

Adjournment -

Action: Motion to adjourn at 9:37 AM by Jacob Ostermeyer, supported by Burt Mason. All in favor.

DK 10/16/23