

Call Meeting to Order - Vice President Trevor Juntunen called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM.

BCCC Mission Statement - The mission statement was read by Nathan Grave.

Roll Call -

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

Guests and Visitors - Nicole Grim UIA. Nicole spoke with the board about UIA's Community Connect program. With board agreement, Dianne and Mary will become CC navigators to assist community members and employers with the unemployment compensation process. Nicole will hold a pop-up open house at the Chamber on Tuesday, December 12 from 9 am to 3 pm. This open house will be promoted on social media, through email, and with a news release.

Consent Agenda -

- Agenda 11/1/23, Minutes 10/4/23.
Discussion: None.
Action: Motion to approve the consent agenda by Nathan Grave, supported by Megan Haataja. All in favor.

Finance Report -

- October Finance Report.
 - Main Account
 - 10/1/23 \$35,927.34, 10/31/23 \$39,576.36.
 - NextGen Account
 - 10/1/23 \$10,721.20, 10/31/23 \$10,561.20.

Discussion: Nathan will email the full report. Dianne will print NextGen outstanding pledges and get them to Nathan.

Action: Motion to approve the October 2023 Finance Report by Carla Engle, supported by Chelsea Klobucher. All in favor.

Support Staff Report -

- Word From the Chamber - Carla will write about Baraga Bucks for November's newsletter. Megan will write about UIA Community Connect for December's newsletter.
- Baraga Bucks - The board agreed to promote Baraga Bucks. Dianne will promote to members. Mary will promote on social media. Suggestion: purchase in a bundle of

smaller denominations as the entire “bucks” need to be surrendered during one purchase.

- Regional Roundtable - Iron County Chamber / EDC provides business improvement grants. Currently the DDA provides grants, but the board indicated this doesn't serve all Baraga County and would like to learn more. Dianne will contact Zack for more information. Board involvement was discussed. Dickinson County Chamber has an oath that must be signed by board members in their handbook. Facebook statistics provide insight. Dianne or Mary will look at the Chamber Facebook statistics. Business After Hours is extremely popular and well attended in Iron County and Marquette County and they provided details and suggestions about their process and what works.
- Business After Hours - Mary announced the schedule and topics for BAH.
- Conference Room - Mary reported that use has increased and interested users should contact her well in advance. Nathan will let Mary know when NextGen plans to use the conference room.
- ATV report from Buddy Sweeney was shared.

Action Items -

(a) 2024 Budget

Discussion: \$10,000 was included for community investment.

Action: Motion to approve the 2024 budget by Megan Haataja, supported by Chelsea Klobucher. All in favor.

(b) Donation Policy

Discussion: Reviewed with no discussion.

Action: Motion to approve the revised donation policy by Nathan Grave, supported by Megan Haataja. All in favor.

(c) Donation Request BFD Children's Christmas Party

Discussion: Aligns with donation policy. Donated \$100 in 2020 and 2022.

Action: Motion to donate \$100 to the BFD Children's Christmas Party by Carla Engle, supported by Megan Haataja. All in favor.

Discussion Items -

- (a) Community investment options / SPARK Childcare: Reminder-the three areas the Chamber is focusing on are 1) Housing, 2) Child Care, 3) Business Promotion. The Chamber will try for another candidate for SPARK's next session to start in February/March. Dianne and Mary will restart the search for a SPARK candidate. A fourth option has been added 4) Community Marketing. Dianne and Mary will post a survey on social media to address the community's concerns about new businesses and what direction the Chamber should be moving. The Chamber is soliciting board members to be part of the marketing committee with the first meeting to be in December. Board members will contact Debbie with their interest in serving on the marketing committee.
- (b) Board Bingo: In effect 1/1/24-12/31/24. Cards will be kept in the Chamber office and will be updated at each meeting recording board member participation activities. \$200 Baraga Bucks prize to the board member who covers the most spots on the card.

Board Training - None.

Committees Updates -

- Next Gen: Four events will be held in 2024. They are working on the sponsorship brochure. Nathan will get meeting dates to Mary by the end of November.
- Events: see Events Committee notes in board packet. November will be combined with OpCom.
- OpCom: see OpCom Committee notes in board packet. November will be combined with Events.
- Membership: Memberships are 117 paid, 22 renewals pending with 2 scheduled for January payment. Dianne will send a list of unpaid memberships to the board of directors for follow up.
- Housing Taskforce: No report.
- Branding: No report.
- Scholarship: no report.

Announcements / Members' Good News -

- Carla showed a miniature billboard created by UP Travel. They are promoting Baraga County with a Canyon Falls billboard.
- Congratulations to Annie Cranford, (now Annie Fish), on her recent marriage.
- Carla's new restaurant is now open, Carla's Bears Den Bar & Grill in Michigamme. Carla would like to do a ribbon cutting ceremony with post cutting promotion. Dianne will call Carla to make arrangements.
- Ryan Perrigo of Midwest Tax & Accounting opened a new location. Dianne will email Ryan to see if he wants to do a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Next Meeting - The next BCCC board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 8:30 AM in the Chamber Board Room.

Adjournment -

Action: Motion to adjourn at 9:30 AM by Trevor Juntunen, supported by Nathan Grave. All in favor.

DK 11/2/23