



BARAGA COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

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*Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, March 13, 2024 - 8:30 AM  
Chamber of Commerce Conference Room*

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**Call Meeting to Order** - Vice President Trevor Juntunen called the meeting to order at 8:43 AM.

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

**Roll Call** -

- Board Present: Nathan Grave, Trevor Juntunen, Burt Mason, Dan Mares, Carla Engle.
- Staff Present: Mary Mervar, Dianne Koskinen.
- Board Absent: Nicole Acciaccia (excused), Annie Fish (excused), Cielle Waters-Umfleet (excused), Ava Borgen (excused), Jamie Smith (excused), Debbie Stouffer (excused), Chelsea Klobucher, Mary Stafford.

**Guests and Visitors** - None.

**Consent Agenda** -

- Agenda 3/13/24, Minutes 2/14/24.  
*Discussion:* Addition - discussion item (f) CVB.  
**Action:** Tabled for April meeting (no quorum).

**Finance Report** -

- Main Account  
2/1/24 \$29,752.34, 2/29/24 \$24,771.39.
- NextGen Account  
2/1/24 \$15,509.50, 2/29/24 \$20,454.48.  
*Discussion:* No anomalies. Large payment for Rural Readiness Grant, questions about budget vs. actual.  
**Action:** Tabled for April meeting (no quorum).

**Support Staff Report** -

- BOD update: Thank you cards to Jacob Ostermeyer and Megan Haataja; Mary Stafford considering resigning.
- Update Bingo cards.
- Dates requested from Next Gen for 2025. Not yet available. Nathan will get them to Mary Mervar.
- Documents to share: BAH flyer 3/20, Lunch & Learn flyer 4/17, tourism flyer 4/18, Mix & Mingle flyer 4/19.

### **Action Items -**

(a) Membership dues - Carla reported that a dues increase for 2024-2025 is proposed. It has been more than five years since the previous increase. Concern was expressed if an increase is just because it hasn't been done in awhile or is there a basis for the increase? Benefits were added. Inflation, operating expenses have increased. BCCC is lower than other UP chambers. Some chambers have a fee schedule based on their number of employees.

**Action:** Tabled for April meeting (no quorum).

(b) Financial review - Karisa Mukka will be available after Easter. Dan will check with Karisa about payment.

**Action:** Tabled for April meeting (no quorum).

(c) Approve sign choice - (in reference to people not being able to find the Chamber building). Dan spoke with Fletch at Random things. He has a wooden sandwich board for \$84, \$15-20/slat, Chamber logo can be put on.

**Action:** Tabled for April meeting (no quorum).

### **Discussion Items -**

(a) Word from the Chamber - short article for March newsletter needed by 3/17/24. Nathan will write about Egg Hunt.

(b) 4/18 Understanding tourism impact - report from last year's survey will be presented on 4/18/24 (flyer distributed).

(c) 4/19 Mix & Mingle - will be held at the L'Anse Golf Club on Friday, 4/19/24 (flyer distributed). Kayla will design a new flyer with a new look. BOD needs to bring or drop off a bag auction item \$20 or more value.

(d) Scholarship committee report - deadline is March 22. Discussion was held as to the Chamber's intent including need-based, business major, academic merit-based.

(e) Sponsorship reminder - Mary will email the BOD to remind them who they are supposed to solicit.

(f) CVB - Carla provided an update on CVB activity. Although the Lake Trout Festival will be held in conjunction with the Keweenaw Bay Classic fishing tournament in 2024, the CVB is moving away from holding this at this time due to the poor weather experienced in the past few years and will explore a Baraga County Family Fun event later in the summer for 2025. It was suggested CVB contact Ava at the KBOCC because she approached the BOD about a culinary event. The visitors' guide is in the first printing for the new year and will be ready for the end of March (ran out of guides last year). The CVB is not changing their physical location. Improvements were made on the snowmobile trails including purchase of property near Alberta that will increase the trail options. ATV trails and map will have a link on the State of Michigan website as of June 1. Vacation rentals (airbnb, vrbo, etc.) do not pay room assessment tax and the CVB is seeing a loss in revenue.

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

## **Committees Updates -**

- Next Gen: April 6 is the Easter Egg hunt. After Easter, hoping for warmer weather.
- PLAN: see notes in board packet.
- Membership: see action item (a).
- Housing Taskforce: no report
- Branding: no report
- Scholarship: see discussion item (d)
- Executive:

## **Announcements / Members' Good News -**

- Comedy Show 3/16/24 at the Whirl-I-Gig 8:00 PM, Chamber BOD complimentary admission.
- After Business Hours 3/20/24 at the Finn's 6:00 PM.

**Next Meeting** - The next BCCC board meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 8:30 AM in the Chamber conference room. Email agenda items to Dianne at [baragachamberoperations@gmail.com](mailto:baragachamberoperations@gmail.com) prior to April 4.

**Adjournment - Action:** No motion to adjourn (no quorum). Meeting adjourned at 9:46 AM.

DK 3/25/24