



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 11, 2024 - 8:30 AM  
Chamber of Commerce Conference Room*

**Call Meeting to Order** - President Debbie Stouffer called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM.

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

**Roll Call** -

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

**Guests and Visitors** - Robert Carlyle of Beyond RX Studios

**Consent Agenda** -

- Agenda 9/11/24, Minutes 8/14/24
- *Discussion:* None.  
**Action:** Motion to approve the consent agenda by Burt Mason, supported by Jamie Smith. All in favor.

**Finance Report** -

- Main Account  
Beginning balance 8/1/24 = \$32,892.73  
Ending balance 8/31/24 = \$33,001.79  
CD = not available online, Nathan will call SNB to get the information.
- NextGen Account  
Beginning balance 8/1/24 = \$14,603.53  
Ending balance 8/31/24 = \$14,582.40

*Discussion:* Budget vs. Actual, nothing jumped out, rent payment was double in August so there will be no rent payment in September. Quickbooks fees are \$90 even with 3 users. Audit report will be presented at the October meeting.

**Action:** Motion to approve the finance report by Burt Mason, supported by Cielle Waters-Umfleet. All in favor.

**Support Staff Report** -

- Thank you card was presented from L'Anse Public Library for the Summer Reading Program donation.
- 2023 Audit is progressing and is scheduled to be completed on 9/25/24.
- ATV update: purchased megaphones, purchased color tape to identify each machine in the group, will purchase a Facebook ad for \$25 targeting a 100 mile radius.
- Holiday decor update: promotions began, TV6 will do an interview today.
- BOD addresses: Board members should get their correct mailing address to Mary.

## Action Items -

(a) 2025-2027 Strategic Plan adoption

*Discussion:* Leave new member recruitment goal at 10%. Debbie and Burt will research the advantages and disadvantages of 501(c)3 status and it will be discussed at the October meeting.

**Action:** Motion to approve the 2025-2027 Strategic Plan by Nathan Grave, supported by Daniel Mares. All in favor.

(b) Request for donations

KBIC Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk

*Discussion:* Chamber donated \$100 in 2023. Dianne is keeping a record of both donations issued and donation requests denied.

**Action:** Motion to donate \$100 to the 2024 KBIC Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Walk by Nathan Grave, supported by Daniel Mares. All in favor.

(c) Gifting policy

*Discussion:* Gifts will be sent to board members and chamber employees for condolences (death of spouse/SO, child, parents, self to family) of a plant or flower arrangement valued up to \$100. For births or adoption of children a gift and card or gift of money and card valued up to \$50 will be sent. Illnesses of board members and chamber employees will be discussed as needed. Upon leaving Chamber service, a card of thanks will be issued. The Chamber will present these gifts when informed of the events. Dianne will prepare a document listing the gifting policy.

**Action:** Motion to approve the gifting policy by Burt Mason, supported by Nathan Grave. All in favor.

## Discussion Items -

(a) Word from the Chamber - Debbie will write,

(b) Update bingo cards - done.

(c) Baraga Bucks - Dan and Dianne did not meet with the CVB to discuss promotion of Baraga Bucks. The Chamber will no longer pursue this.

(d) SBAM member utilization - Dianne requested information from SBAM regarding Chamber membership utilization of SBAM services but no information has yet been provided. SBAM will be asked about this when they are here for the open house on 9/26/24.

(e) MCC (Michigan Chamber of Commerce) and MACP (Michigan Association of Chamber Professionals) membership recommendation - Trevor looked into it and his email report was read. The Chamber declines to join either organization.

(f) Dynamo grants update - The committee will meet on 9/18/24 with award announcements expected by 9/30/24. Fifteen applications were received before the deadline. Three grants of up to \$5,000 each will be awarded. A survey of the applicants will be conducted to learn how they heard about the Dynamo grants. All applicants are entitled to a free Chamber membership until June 30, 2025. Those who receive a grant will also be offered the opportunity to join at a 50% discount for the 2025-2026 membership year. A news release will be issued when the grants are awarded, along with social media, newsletter, and email promotion.

**Board Training - None.**

**Committees Updates -**

- Next Gen: Glow Golf went well with 15 teams competing. Next Gen will discuss taking over Business After Hours at their November meeting.
- PLAN: see notes in board packet. Dianne needs to have Frozen Cup flyers ready next week. The Frozen Cup is expanding to include 18U youth category.
- Membership: There are 38 outstanding renewals. Second invoices will go out at the end of September. Debbie will make personal calls after that.
- Housing Taskforce: no report
- Branding: no report
- Scholarship: The scholarship committee will reactivate in January.

**Announcements / Members' Good News -**

- Cody welcomed his new daughter, Zora, on 8/20/24.
- Nicole welcomed her new daughter, Anna, on 8/22/24.
- Annie is expecting her new son in October.
- SBAM open house will be held at the Chamber office on 9/26/24 at 11:30.
- Business After Hours will be held October 16 at 6:00 PM.
- Smith Holistic Care will be adding massage therapy services and is currently taking appointments for practice massages.

**Next Meeting** - The next BCCC board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at 8:30 AM in the Chamber conference room.

**Adjournment -**

**Action:** Motion to adjourn by Nathan Grave, supported by Jamie Smith at 9:29 AM. All approved.