

ATHABASCA DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
General Meeting
Thursday, 07 April, 2005
Greenspot Restaurant

APPROVED

Attending: Alan Henry, Frank Ponto, Maxine Boisvert, Ross Hunter, Dena Angus, Trevor Martin, Joanne Peckham, Marianne McKee, Jim Woodward, Eileen Chamberlain, Jan Overacker, Michael Neville, Don Larson, Nicole Belland, Peggy Baker, Carla Harris, Doug Topinka, Audrey Anderson, Ty Hart, Cyndie Black, Richard Verhaeghe

- 1.0 **CALL TO ORDER:** President Don Larson called the meeting to order and Members introduced themselves.
- 2.0 Joanne advised members that Doug Spurgeon was not fired, but rather transferred to High Prairie at his request. She advised we will be having a replacement from 96X coming soon.
- 3.0 **MINUTES:** The minutes were circulated with the agenda. There was no discussion. ***Moved by Michael Neville, seconded by Ty Hart that the minutes be approved as circulated. CARRIED.***
- 4.0 **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
- 4.1 Flower Pot Fundraiser – Carried over to the next meeting.
ACTION: Executive
- 4.2 Tourism Recognition Awards – Carried over to the next meeting.
ACTION: Executive
- 4.3 Coin Fundraiser: Don reported that the coins have been ordered and should be here in 4-6 weeks. The coins are legal tender and will bear wording that they are accepted at participating merchants.
- 4.4 Welcome Neighbour Bags: After a good general discussion it was determined Carla will order the bags.
ACTION: Carla
- 4.5 Athabasca University Convocation Numbers: Michael reported that the University will be holding convocation ceremonies on June 9, 10, and 11. The ceremonies will begin at 12 noon each day. A total of 500 graduates are expected and they will each bring 3 or 4 guests.
- 5.0 **CORRESPONDENCE:** As stated in the Agenda.

5.1 Don read a note from Paula Evans (Town Councillor) thanking the Chamber for their support of the Farmers' Market.

6.0 **TREASURER'S REPORT:** We started the month with an opening balance of \$8,726.56. Expenses for the post office box, phone, farmers' market advertising, coins and web site totalled \$639.00. Deposits from memberships were \$4,450.78. Leaving us with an ending balance of \$12,537.48.

Moved by Joanne, seconded by Ty that the Treasurer's Report be adopted as presented. CARRIED

7.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.1 Presidents Report – Don reported that the Town has advised us that they will be undertaking repairs on the Caboose and that they requested we hold off making repairs.

7.2 Public Relations – Nothing to Report.

7.3 Membership: The membership was circulated with the minutes. Michael gave an update stating that we now had achieved 66% of our goal in the membership area.

7.3.1 Michael outlined his plans to increase membership: a second notice of renewal has been sent out. Once this has had time to generate a response we will look at phoning people to encourage them to renew.

7.3.2 Michael also has plans to go through the phone book, identify non-member businesses and determine how best to approach them.

7.3.3 In response to a question, Michael advised that a newsletter will be prepared on a regular basis that will include information about the Alberta Chambers of Commerce and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

Moved by Don, seconded by Cyndie that the membership report be adopted as presented. CARRIED

7.4 Retail: Nothing to Report

7.5 Welcome Neighbour: We expect to be handing out packages at the beginning of June as soon as the Community Phone books are available.

7.5.1 It was agreed that the Atha Facts brochure, produced by the Town, will be included. It was noted that the brochure needs updating.

ACTION: Richard

7.5.2 Information about the Infomall will also be included.

Moved by Don, seconded by Carla that the Welcome Neighbour report be adopted as presented. Carried

7.5.3 Canada Day – Nothing To Report.

7.5.4 Tourism: Frank reported that:

- a new golfing guide will be coming out soon and that a new sport and fishing guide is now available.
- He is a member of a consortium that is looking to bring Trade Fairs and Conventions to northern Alberta.
- The Travel Alberta Holiday Card will be out in the Edmonton Journal this week or next.
- He has interest from someone who is looking at opening a jet-boat tour company.
- The outdoor kayak organization from Slave Lake is looking at expanding into Athabasca.
- The owners of the Scenic Trails Bed and Breakfast have purchased a new business in Canmore and will be leaving.
- The Spring Showcase workshop will be taking place in mid-May; and
- His trip to Georgia did not produce as much traffic through the booth as other booths, but was worthwhile.

Moved by Nicole, seconded by Carla that the Tourism report be adopted as presented. CARRIED

7.6 Maintenance – Nothing further (than the President's report) to report.

7.7 Social: Marianne thanked Landing Ford for hosting the first Wine and Cheese Social on March 17th. Even though turnout was not as good as hoped for, it was a good event.

7.7.1 The next Social evening will be June 9 at 6-8 pm and will be hosted by CKBA.

7.7.2 It was noted that we need a host for the September and December socials.

Moved by Cyndie, seconded by Joanne that the Social report be adopted as presented. CARRIED.

8.0 NEW BUSINESS

8.1 August 27th on the Riverfront, Ty Hart and company will be putting on a special presentation. Guest hosts/performers include: Samantha King; Bear Paws Gun Slingers, JP Trembley (Monster Truck), Local Talent and Dancers from Calling Lake. Proceeds will go to the Alberta Children's Hospital.

8.2 Trevor reminded everyone that the Economic Development Committee meetings will take place as outlined in the Agenda. In addition, sessions will be held on Monday, 11th in Wandering River and Wednesday, 13th in Grassland.

8.3 Trevor announced that the river has officially broken up and the clock will be opened tomorrow at the Advocate Office. Tickets are still available, and we have sold 513 with 700 more to come in.

9.0 **GUEST SPEAKER:** Ida May from CAT Country Slave Lake was unable to attend the meeting, so Janet Stafford spoke on her new business NAWASONAH Alternative Health Care. Nawsolah is Cree for "Your Choice".

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Joanne, seconded by Ty that the meeting be adjourned. CARRIED

-----END OF MEETING-----