



The mission of the Whitehall Chamber of Commerce is to bring individuals, businesses and organizations together to enrich our community.

MINUTES

BOARD MEETING

February 9, 2023 12:00 p.m.

Borden's Conference Room

The Whitehall Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting was called to order at 12:09 PM by President Liz Pullman. In attendance were: Liz Pullman (President/Ledger), Sherre Mead (Treasurer/Numb3rs), Pamela Polachi (Past President/Settings & WLC), Kylie Hansen (Board Member/Whitehall PTSA), Anna Coleman (Board Member/Starlight Electric), and Chiara Schober (Chamber Coordinator)

Current Business

a. Membership Drive Recap

Liz

There was good turnout for our first evening meeting on January 12th with close to 50 in attendance. As a Chamber we would like to move toward being more proactive for the businesses and less time running events. There were folks who still didn't know about the meeting. Look into other ways to promote events. Liz will reach out to Joe at the Fire Hall to see if the Chamber can put a note on their e-sign.

b. Chamber Bucks

Liz

LaDonna is checking into High Peaks managing the Chamber Bucks. We are also discussing moving it in-house for the Chamber to manage. Pam made a motion to move the Chamber Bucks in-house. Anna seconded. Motion passed.

c. Easter Egg Hunt

Liz

The Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 1st. There was a motion last year to get new eggs. Chiara will order eggs online. We need larger prize items for the Scavenger Hunt. Pam has offered to have a stuffing egg party at Settings and the ability to order items wholesale through her store. Please reach out to businesses for a donation of \$20 to buy a bag of candy.

d. Black Tie Blue Jeans

Liz

Kylie would like to rename BTBJ to Boots and Bollos. We have folks who want to be on the committee who do not want BTBJ to change. Community members are feeling priced out of being able to attend BTBJ. The Board would like to move away from the Live Auction format.

e. Business After Hours

Liz

The February Business After Hours is canceled due to unforeseen circumstances.

f. Chamber Marketing/Content

Chiara

Chiara took part in a 5 Day Marketing Bootcamp and is interested in purchasing the marketing content bundle which includes access to articles that can be used in the paper. This is fully customizable content. This is something we can use ARPA funds for that is for tourism. Kylie made a motion to purchase the content bundle. Seconded by Pam. Motion passed.

g. Rodeo

Liz

We have someone saying they would like to bring the NRA Rodeo in during Frontier Days and have the Chamber step back. The Chamber can sponsor an event or a belt buckle up to \$2000. Move the Rodeo funds to the General Operating Account and dissolve Rodeo Account. Anna motioned to sponsor a Rodeo Event or Belt Buckle up to \$2000. Give Bobbi a \$1000 Thank You. Dissolve the Rodeo Account and put the funds into the General Operating Account. Sherre seconded. Motion passed.

h. M.A.C.E. Spring Conference

Chiara

The Spring Montana Association of Chamber Executives is in Kalispell April 26 - 28th. Chiara would like to attend. She has put in an application for a scholarship. We can utilize ARPA funds for this. Anna made a motion to use \$600 for Chiara to attend the M.A.C.E. Spring Conference. Sherre seconded. Motion passed.

Anna made a motion to adjourn the Board Meeting at 12:54 p.m. and Seconded by Pam. Motion carried.

GENERAL MEETING

February 9, 2023 1:00 p.m.
Borden’s Conference Room

The Whitehall Chamber of Commerce General Meeting was called to order at 1:03 PM by President Liz Pullman. In attendance were: Liz Pullman (President/Ledger), Pam Polachi (Past President/Settings), Sherre Mead (Treasurer/Numb3rs Bookkeeping), Anna Coleman (Board Member/Starlight Electric), Kylie Hansen (Board Member/PTSA), Sharon Macheel (Board Member/Vendor Rep), Chiara Schober (Chamber Coordinator), Laurel Ovitt (MT Artist), Jeannie Ferriss (Whitehall Library), Pati McLaughlin (MT Jam & Candles), Mike Ildvad (1st Call Heating & AC), Laura Dooley (Expedition Church), Greg Caudry (Jefferson Inn), Bruce Binkowski (Jefferson County Events), John McEagher. Via Zoom: Kristy Heppler

Approval of Minutes

Pam made a motion to approve the January 2023 minutes with name corrections. Seconded by Sherre. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report Overview

Sherre stated that the Treasurer now has their own laptop with The Chamber’s own version of Quickbooks. The Main operating account has a balance of \$62,954.00. In the Rodeo account there is \$25,078.49. In the Savings account there is \$10,015.92.

Guest Reports

CTAC Report - Bruce Binkowski

Tailings reprocessing has been down for a week, the tailings line was frozen with the cold snap we got.

Gold Junction Presents - Liz Pullman

Montana Shakespeare in the Parks came to the school on January 30th and performed Hamlet Sandwich along with workshops with the help of the Whitehall PTSA. GJP finished the preliminary architecture report for revamping The Star Theatre. GJP put in a grant application to WSC for a multi purpose flexible staging option.

Jefferson County Events - Bruce Binkowski

This weekend is the Gun Show at the Community Center. Skijoring at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. Youth Substance free Super Bowl parties and the AOG in Whitehall and the Jefferson High School in Boulder. Montana Author Book Signing at the Western Legacy Center. Basketball starts next week on Jefferson County Radio.

Library Report - Jeannie Ferriss

The Library is presenting Military Strong. This is free and open to the public. Pick up a Calendar at the Library. They just finished up the Alzheimer workshop and have extra packets to give out if anyone missed the workshop. Montana PBS will be at the Library on Friday for Story Time.

Western Legacy Center Report - Pam Polachi

They are hosting an Author's Event with 14 Authors signing books. WLC is hoping to get their quarterly disbursement and start construction as soon as possible. They are looking for bids and must be on the Bidders List. Contact Helena to get on the contractors list.

Whitehall PTSA Report - Kylie Hansen

The PTSA is starting Money Wars March 1st through 31st. They are trying something new and looking for Businesses to sponsor a grade to win and match their earnings. There is a contribution of \$50 if the businesses chosen did not win. The prize is a pizza party & extra recess. March 31st the PTSA will host a Family Night. The cost is \$5 per person.

Whitehall Sustainability Committee - Liz Pullman

WSC approves the application to be sent up to GSM. The Grant Cycle opened up in November and closed February 1st. They received 4 applications. Two were approved and sent to GSM. WSC is looking for approval to open up another Grant Cycle in August.

Committee Reports

Coordinator Report - Chiara Schober

Chiara took part in a 5 Day Marketing Bootcamp and is interested in purchasing the marketing content bundle which includes access to articles that can be used in the paper. This is fully customizable content. The Spring Montana Association of Chamber Executives is in Kalispell April 26 - 28th and Chiara will be attending. Get on the Marketing Calendar for the Chamber to share on social media, the e-sign, in the windows and in the Kiosk.

Current Business

Easter Egg & Scavenger Hunt - Liz Pullman

Last year we set aside money to purchase new eggs. Chiara will look into how much to spend on eggs. There is a call out to the membership to reach out for donations in the way of cash, candy or egg stuffing.

Black Tie Blue Jeans - Liz Pullman

There is a misunderstanding and we need to put a pin in this for now. Jeannie offered her help with accounting.

Business After Hours - Liz Pullman

February After Hours is canceled. We will get back on track in March. We are looking for Businesses with physical locations to invite home based businesses to come and do a presentation. Jeannie said the Library would like to host an After Hours. Liz would like to get every other meeting to be an evening meeting tied to a Business After Hours.

Frontier Days - Liz Pullman

The Chamber is sticking with the last full weekend in July for Frontier Days regardless of the other events scheduled around our region. There needs to be a Steering Committee for Frontier Days. Geena will be bringing the NRA Rodeo to town during Frontier Days. The Chamber will support Geena and dissolve its Rodeo account. Wyldman will still come to Whitehall for his rodeo in June or August. We are throwing around ideas to make a "Food Court" at the Community Center. Businesses would like to know how to help before and after FD.

Additional Business/Public Comment**Summer Help - Liz Pullman**

Lindsay with JLDC is looking for businesses who are looking for part-time summer help. The students are vetted and ready to work, however JLDC is not offering funds to support the workers.

Baseball Fundraiser - Kylie Hansen

Baseball Superbowl Squares are \$25 a square and this helps Whitehall Baseball with uniforms.

High School Play - Liz Pullman

The School play is March 15 & 16 at 6:30pm the cost is \$5 per person.

Adjournment

Pam made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Laurel seconded, motion carried.

Submitted by:

Chiara Schober