



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

MINUTES

BOARD MEETING

May 11, 2023 12:00 p.m.

Borden's Conference room

The Whitehall Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting was called to order at 12:05 PM by President Liz Pullman. In attendance were: Liz Pullman (President/Ledger), Dana Brunet (Vice President/Pepper Tree Deli), Kylie Hansen (Board Member/PTSA), Carey Burnside (Board Member/Arctic Heat), Anna Coleman (Board Member/Starlight Electric), and Chiara Schober (Chamber Coordinator)

Current Business

a. Treasurer's Report

Chiara

Chiara reported for Sherre that the Main account has \$68,815.36, Rodeo account is \$25,441.37, and Savings account is \$10,017.14 for a total of \$104,273.87. There are no new letters. The Rodeo check has still not been cashed.

b. Billboard

Liz

Tom spoke with Liz about utilizing the Billboard West of town for the Western Legacy Center. Since it is earmarked for the Chamber, Tom would do something like "The Whitehall Chamber Welcomes You" and add a logo for the Western Legacy Center and Pro Rodeo Museum. The idea was well received.

c. Community Garage Sale

Chiara

Scheduled for June 17th. Chiara handed out sign up forms to Thriftway (the Corner Store) and the Chamber Kiosk. Liz requested the form image. How can we get businesses involved? Liz will offer spots on the Main Street Green for Gold Junction Presents at \$5 for folks who live outside of town.

d. Tourism to Whitehall

Liz

Bring in people who have a large internet following in the hopes that their followers will come to town. Twinkle Lights on Legion trees. Christmas Village with vendors in the community center. Chiara will look into Transworld for a Christmas trade show.

e. Frontier Days

Liz

No Rodeo. Carnival? Obstacle Course? Climbing Wall? GJP is talking about putting on a play. Vendor contest to get folks into Frontier Days costumes. Poll town on why you stop in a small town. Something like a Renaissance Festival. RailRoad enthusiasts and trains around town. Hidden Horse Shoes - Selfie.

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

GENERAL MEETING

May 11, 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), Dana Brunet (Vice President/Pepper Tree Deli), Carey Burnside (Board Member/Arctic Heat), Anna Coleman (Board Member/Starlight Electric), Chiara Schober (Chamber Coordinator), Jeannie Ferriss (Whitehall Library), Laura Dooley (Expedition Church), Tom Harrington (Western Legacy Center), Candace Ahlin (Whitehall Coffee Co.).

Approval of Minutes

Tom made a motion to approve the April 2023 minutes as presented. Seconded by Dana. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Chiara reported for Sherre that the Main account has \$68,815.36, Rodeo account is \$25,441.37, and Savings account is \$10,017.14 for a total of \$104,273.87.

Guest Reports

CTAC Report - Tom Harrington

The mine has 24 employees, 20 contractors and 4 vacancies. Water treatment plant is moving forward. Town Pump is a little behind schedule but they are aiming for September 1.

Extension/JLDC Report - Tom Harrington

JLDC has decided to wait on the meat processing plant. JLDC sold building six and demolition has started. Extension hired a new 4-H agent.

Gold Junction Presents - Liz Pullman

GJP will have the summer film series' starting up in June with the Family Film Series on Wednesdays and the Western Series on Thursdays featuring Gary Cooper. Working on Tuesdays to be Documentaries and Thursdays after the Western Series ends to be Made in (inspired by) Montana films. Enchanted Forest Farie in June 24th on the Main Street Green. Beats and Eats will start up the same day and GJP is looking for food trucks as well. We had our play in April and 406 Winds was here and we had a pretty good showing for that.

Jefferson County Events - Liz Pullman

Jefferson County Fair Grounds is gearing up for Wedding season. There are already 10 on the schedule. Wyldman Rodeo and ads to promote Frontier Days.

Library - Jeannie Ferriss

Last year we had about 230 participants in Summer Reading. The Library received a gift of \$3,000. They will have a Wizard, puppet show and magic show. The Library had 14 teenagers and adults go to LA to see the Holocaust Museum. Summer Lunch starts June 12 through July. The Library will accept pre-packaged food donations. Communities that Care is a national organization that has shown to reduce drug use in the hosting community by about 30%. If you are interested in participating please reach out to Jeannie.

Town Report - Liz Pullman

Spring Cleaning Thank yous have gone out. Graduation Flags have just gone up. Flags will be put up next week.

Western Legacy Center Report - Tom Harrington

WLC is remodeling walls and painting. Pro Rodeo Circle of Champions display with all the Champions over the years. Trip Advisor is up. They are seeing more traffic. Working on Brochures. Ecommerce and Ebay store is in the works. MDT signage with Welcome to Whitehall with WLC logos. Looking forward to a Fall Grand Opening.

Whitehall PTSA Report - Dana Brunet

The PTSA paid for 4 field trips this year, totaling \$1100. They bought 4 new incubators for the 3rd grade class. Helped fund the new sensory wall and new recess equipment. Looking to have a Family Field Day over the summer.

Whitehall Sustainability Committee - Liz Pullman

Did not meet.

Committee Reports

Coordinator Report - Chiara Schober

Chiara attended the M.A.C.E. Conference in Kalispell. (Montana Association of Chamber Executives) It was great to meet others who have similar challenges and have persevered through these challenges. The US Chamber shared that in MT there is a lack of people to fill jobs. Chiara learned about a national project called Lemonade Day when she was asking about a Youth Chamber Membership. Montana has a youth competition called Prospects and Junior Prospects. It was discussed to match youth with mentors.

Southwest Montana call center has moved and is being managed by the Butte Chamber of Commerce. The top 4 activities people are looking for more info on are History & Ghost Tours, Wildlife Viewing, Lewis & Clark Trail Sites, and Family Activities. The top 4 states looking for more information on Montana through Southwestmt.com are CA, FL, PA, & TX. The places with the highest interest are Anaconda, Butte, Virginia City, and Helena. Pam and Chiara went on a FAM tour of Augusta and Lincoln as they are part of Southwest Montana.

Current Business

Community Garage Sale - Chiara Schober

The Community Garage Sale will be held on Saturday June 17th. Chiara handed out sign up forms to Thriftway (the Corner Store) and the Chamber Kiosk. Jeannie said she would like to have forms at the Library. GJP would allow folks who are outside of town to use the Main Street Green for a similar fee as the Farmer's Market. Liz would like to have maps in the paper.

Frontier Days - Liz Pullman

We are not going to have a Rodeo. It's not looking like we could do a food truck event as many will be at other events. GJP is looking for something to fill the space where a Rodeo was. Brainstorm about what would bring people to town. Can we do a Spirit week before Frontier Days? Would folks dress up or put a display in their window? Thoughts on Grand Marshal for the parade were Terry Casagrande or Sean Davis. Frontier Days is the last week of Summer Reading at the Library. Rotary may have funds to sponsor an event like a Free Pool day.

Additional Business/Public Comment

Carey Burnside has an article for the Whitehall Chamber website Blog about Square.

Adjournment

Dana made a motion to adjourn the Meeting at 2:01 p.m. and Seconded by Anna. Motion carried.

Submitted by:
Chiara Schober