



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

MINUTES

BOARD MEETING

January 12, 2023 5:01 p.m.
Borden's Conference Room

The Whitehall Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM by President Liz Pullman. In attendance were: Liz Pullman (President/Ledger), Dana Brunet (Vice President/Pepper Tree Deli), Sherre Mead (Treasurer/Numb3rs), Carey Burnside (Board Member/Arctic Heat), Kylie Hansen (Board Member/Whitehall PTSA), Anna Coleman (Board Member/Starlight Electric), Samara Doran (Board Member/Friend), Sharon Mackeel (Board Member/Vendor Rep), Lorie Steerman, Ryan England, and Chiara Schober (Chamber Coordinator)

Current Business

a. Membership

Liz

Liz reworked the collateral and benefits that the Chamber brings to the community. There are posters around the room for the General Meeting to have Members and Potential Members give us feedback. We asked 8 questions including: PROS of being a business in Whitehall, CONS of being a business in Whitehall, What benefits to you want, What benefits don't help you, What can the Chamber do better, What is the Chamber doing right, What do you want to see for Whitehall, What don't you want to see for Whitehall. We want this year to focus on Small Business, Shop Local and Shop Small. There are membership packets for new and existing members with all the collateral information and meeting/events dates listed. The Ledger is going to donate a Chamber Directory on the back page of the paper.

b. Chamber Bucks

Lorie

Chamber Bucks are like Gift Certificates to Chamber Member Businesses. We use these a lot for prizes at Chamber events. The current situation with the Chamber Bucks is that they are becoming more difficult for businesses to cash. These are held at Rocky Mountain Bank and have been managed by a past Chamber Board Member. Folks are finding that it is more difficult to acquire Chamber Bucks as well. A question was raised to have the Chamber office manage the Bucks, but the issue is having the money at the Chamber office. It was suggested to see if High Peaks FCU was interested in helping us manage Chamber Bucks. Dana would talk with LaDonna. Businesses need to have a better understanding of how Chamber Bucks works. Is it possible to know how much of the account is being accessed by us as a Chamber for prizes versus by community members as gifts? Dana made a motion to talk to LaDonna at High Peaks FCU about hosting the Chamber Bucks Account and moving forward with a revamp of the Chamber Bucks program. Anna seconded. Motion passed.

c. Black Tie Blue Jeans

Liz

There was a resignation letter that was sent out that the board of BTBJ has resigned. At first Black Tie Blue Jeans was an annual fundraiser to put grants out to the community started by Bill Brown. Then they brought the Veterans into it and were benefiting off the rental of the Community Center. Then Jefferson Valley Community Foundation was formed and became the Fiscal Sponsor for BTBJ. BTBJ was handed off to the Chamber. JVCF

has a 501(c)3 and the Chamber is not. JVCF gets 15% for doing all the accounting and for their grants. The Chamber is the recipient of the larger portion of funds for Chamber activities, tourism, kids activities, etc. Funds can not be used for employee pay or general office needs. What does this resignation mean for us? JVCF could still remain the fiscal sponsor and get the 15% for doing the tax portion of it. There are other options to discuss. The discussion moved to rebranding and partnering with Gold Junction Presents. Dana made a motion that the Chamber drop JVCF as the fiscal sponsor for BTBJ and we ask GJP to be the 501(c)3 and move it back to the Community Center, that we make it affordable and the Chamber has full control of the event. Carey seconded. Motion passed.

d. QuickBooks/Treasurer

Sherre

Lorie and Sherre have been working for weeks to get Sherre up and running with Quickbooks. The version the Chamber has been using was donated and is owned by Kristi Wilson. Liz made a motion to do whatever we need to do up to \$3,000.00 to get the QuickBooks in the Chamber name at the most affordable rate and acquire a Treasurer's laptop if needed. Dana seconded. Motion passed.

Carey made a motion to adjourn the Board Meeting at 5:51 p.m. and Seconded by Kylie. Motion carried.

GENERAL MEETING

January 12, 2023 6:00 p.m.
Borden's Conference Room

The Whitehall Chamber of Commerce General Meeting was called to order at 5:55 PM by President Liz Pullman. In attendance were: Liz Pullman (President/Ledger), Dana Brunet (Vice President/Pepper Tree Deli), Pam Polachi (Past President/Settings), Sherre Mead (Treasurer/Num3rs Bookkeeping), Carey Burnside (Board Member/Arctic Heat), Anna Coleman (Board Member/Starlight Electric), Kylie Hansen (Board Member/WPTSA), Sharon Macheel (Board Member/Vendor Rep), Samara Doran (Board Member/Friend of the Chamber), Chiara Schober (Chamber Coordinator), Lorie Steerman (Friend of the Chamber), Jan Thorne (Subway), Laurel Ovitt (MT Artist), Mary Janacaro-Hensleigh (Town Mayor), Maxine Samuelson, LaDonna Knox (High Peaks FCU), Candace Ahlin, Velda Bowman (MeadowLark Manor), Glenna Waltee (Whitehall Garden Club), Diane Ward (Whitehall Garden Club), Jeannie Ferriss (Whitehall Library), Teresa Oyama (Whitehall Transportation), Lola Hagerty, Dan Hagerty (County Commissioner), Laurie Perry (Cardwell General Store), Curt Perry (Cardwell Campground), Bernice Nicholson (Tastefully Simple), Lauren Dembuy (Jewelry/Photography), Monique Morris (M&M Vintage), Ryan England, Heidi Aliston (The Healing Spot), Mrs. Noble (Noble Jewelry), Rita Brown (Sage Woman Healing & Massage), Pati McLaughlin (MT Jam & Candles), Raven Hrysenko (Raven 3D Printing & Design), Katherine Smith (Smith's Supply), Jamie Chapman (Maiden MT), Jennifer Beebout (Bee's Cleaning & Property Management), Tanya Jorgenson, Steve Coleman (Starlight Electric), John McEagher, Colton Anderson (Gold Junction Presents/Star Theatre), Kristine Erinn Heppler (K Erinn Creative Publishing), Arlene Weber (Rotary Club/Jefferson Valley Museum), Timothy Schober (White Hat Solutions).

Approval of Minutes

Anna made a motion to approve the December 2022 minutes as presented. Seconded by Dana. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Sherre presented an overview. The Main operating account has a balance of \$67,408.07. In the Rodeo account there is \$25,078.49. In the Savings account there is \$10,014.65. The total balance of \$102,502.05. For the 2023 chamber year, we wish to REMOVE the following signers from our bank accounts at Rocky Mountain Bank:

Main Operating Account:

Alison Richardson
Pamela Polachi
John Kreis
Lorie Steerman

Rodeo Account:

Lorie Steerman
Alison Richardson
Pamela Polachi

Savings Account:

Alison Richardson
Lorie Steerman
Pamela Polachi

Please ADD the following signers:

Savings Account:	Main Operating Account:	Rodeo Account:	Chamber Bucks Account:
Sherre Mead, Treasurer	Sherre Mead, treasurer	Bobbi Chatriand-Neumann,	Kristi Wilson
Elizabeth Pullman,	Elizabeth Pullman,	rodeo chairperson	Sherre Mead, treasurer
President	President	Sherre Mead, treasurer	Elizabeth Pullman,
	Dana Brunet, vice	Elizabeth Pullman, President	president
	president	Dana Brunet, Vice-President	

Committee Reports

Coordinator Report - Chiara Schober

Governor's Conference on Tourism - April 23-25th at the Delta Hotels by Marriott Helena Colonial

The Governor's Conference on Tourism is Montana's annual gathering of private and public sector partners in the tourism and recreation industries. Pricing \$249 before January 20th and \$299 after. Meals included. Room at the facility hosting the conference is approximately \$350 for the stay. **A Look at BZN Airport** - In 2022 there were 2.26 million passengers making it the 7th busiest airport in the 7- State Northwest Region. Butte and Helena had a slight uptick to 34,000 and 150,000 passengers respectively. **Visit Southwest Montana & Voices of Montana** - The next Visit Southwest Montana Meeting is Thursday, February 23rd 10am in Butte or Anaconda. Dax Schieffer shared that the Montana Travel Association is meeting 2 times per week. They have adopted by-laws and have an RFP out for a lobbyist. There are some general threats to funds for tourism. There is proposed legislation to change the Tourism Advisory Council from 12 to 9 members, to raise the tax credit limit for filming from \$12 million to \$30 million, to create an annual fee for electric vehicles - to help cover road improvement costs, and other legislation which might affect tourism. Knowing what's happening in Montana's state legislature just got easier. Six Montana Chambers of Commerce pooled resources to support Open Montana's deployment of the Council Data Project for the Montana state legislative session. This tool will perform multiple services for every citizen, business, state agency, and organization in Montana.

<https://www.openmontana.org/montana-legislature-council-data-project/#/>

Marketing Calendar - In our last newsletter I attached a marketing calendar template. If you did not get it or if you would like me to send it to you, please let me know. I would love to have businesses share their events and specials so that we can put them on the e-sign and share on our social media. If you don't have social media for your business, let us help you get it going.

2023 Board Introductions - Liz Pullman

2023 President - Elizabeth Pullman, *Whitehall Ledger*

2023 Vice-President - Dana Brunet, *Pepper Tree Deli*

2023 Past President - Pamela Polachi, *Settings by All Things Montana*

Treasurer (2023-2025) - Sherre Mead, *Numb3ers Bookkeeping & Tax*

Board of Directors (2021-2024) - Carey Burnside, *Arctic Heat*

Board of Directors (2023-2025) - Kylie Hansen, *Whitehall PTSA*

Board of Directors (2023-2025) - Anna Coleman, *Starlight Electric*

Board of Directors (2023-2024) - Samara Doran, *Friend of the Chamber*

Board of Directors (2023-2024) - Sharon Macheel, *Vendor Rep*

Introductions around the room with over 44 Business Owners and Community Members in attendance.

The formal portion of our meeting ended at 6:35 pm with an opportunity to network and mingle.

Submitted by:
Chiara Schober