

GREATER OGDENSBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
MINUTES
February 22, 2017
Dobisky Visitor's Center

Call Meeting to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Sean McNamara at 12:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

Members present: Lee Jones, Steve Hawes, Kevin McDonough, Kathy Bogart, Chris Pitcher, Michele Catlin, Craig Chevalier, John Wade, Marcia Le May, Sarah Purdy, Sean McNamara, Michael Thayer, Kim Demers, Rhonda Roethel, and Alex Augsbury.

Members excused: Judy Ryan, Melissa Lalonde, Derek VanHouse, Wayne Izzo, Shelly Jameson, Amy Hartford and John Rishe.

Members absent: Julia Stevenson, R. O'Donnell and Betsy Porter.

Introduction of Guest: Dawn Merz was welcomed by President McNamara as a guest.

Approval of the January 18, 2017 meeting minutes: A motion was made by Sarah Purdy to approve the January 18, 2017 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Lee Jones and carried by all.

President's Report & Correspondence: A letter of thanks was received by the Gouverneur Breast Cancer Fund for being awarded Citizen of the Year. They also became a chamber member. A newsletter from the Indian Lakes Conservatory and Fort de la Presentation was shared.

Treasurer's Report: Alex Augsbury reviewed the January 2017 financials. Current month's expenses are \$7015.02 and income is \$13,095.84 leaving a net profit of \$6080.62 for the month. Year to date income and expenses are \$108,430. Laura Pearson noted that we haven't received our 4th quarter allocation from the City of Ogdensburg yet nor the BASS Tournament money. Once those monies are received, there will be a profit at the end of the year and a revised budget will be shared with the Board. A motion was made to accept the January financials as presented by Craig Chevalier and seconded by John Wade and carried by all.

Executive Director's Report:

- **Student of the Month** – next presentation is scheduled for Thursday, March 2nd – 9 am at OFA and 9:30 at BOCES.
- **Polar Bear Plunge** – Committee meeting scheduled for immediately after Board Meeting. We have (3) vendors and (11) sponsors – Akwesasne Mohawk Casino; Cape Air; Carlisle Law Firm; Casella Waste Service; CHMC; Kimro's Medicine Place; Mort Backus & Sons; Ogdensburg Save-A-Lot; St. Lawrence Federal Credit Union; NNY Newspapers and America1 Realty. Laura has posters to distribute – please

see if you can take a few posters to display – the Business Distribution sign-up has been circulated.

- **Membership Renewals** – were mailed out on December 15th. To date, we have received (158) renewals from the (236) membership list. We have been sending membership invitations to potential new members. We have (6) new members to date.
- **American Red Cross Blood Drive** – was held on Friday, February 17 – we had (15) donors who gave (14) pints of blood. Our next drive is scheduled for Friday, April 28th – more info will follow.
- **Facebook** – Please visit the Chamber Facebook page and “like” & “share” it with your family and friends.
- **Expo** – We usually split the cost of this booth with the City of Ogdensburg but CoraLee just called to say that the City is unable to split the cost this year. We have not budgeted for the full amount of \$265 -- Laura has asked the Fort to split the cost – if they cannot we will have to pay the full amount or opt out of having a booth this year. Laura is coordinating with the Fort to cover the booth during the times we are not available. Please sign up for a couple of hours on Saturday, March 25th or Sunday, March 26th. Laura will set-up the booth and man it on Friday, March 24th but will be at the Ottawa Tourism Show on Saturday, March 26th. Laura will close the booth on Sunday.
- **Event Schedule Sheets** – Laura has provided each Board Member with an Event Schedule Sheet to help keep track of events you have signed up for and the times you are scheduled to work. If you have not signed up for any events – please see the event clipboard with sign-up sheets. It is important to have as many volunteers at each event as possible.
- **Business Resource Mixer** – St. Lawrence County IDA is hosting a mixer with a cash bar and snacks and (5) guest speakers on Thursday, March 2nd at 4 pm. Laura will have more info later this week. John Pinkerton has asked us to promote it to our members and have a display table for chamber info.

Committee Reports:

Polar Bear Plunge

Laura reported we are on track for the Polar Bear Plunge. There are three vendors signed up and 11 sponsors for the event. The sign is hung up on Ford Street. Laura asked all members to take posters and pledge forms to distribute.

WBFF

John Wade reported that the committee has started meeting and all are welcome to attend the meetings. They have 10 vendors signed up so far. They will be doing a mailing to local artists to invite them to participate as vendors. The next meeting will be either before or after the scheduled board meeting in March.

Car-B-Que

Lee Jones reported that the first meeting will be on February 28 at 8:00 a.m. at Philips Diner. All are welcome to attend. So far three cars have signed up. They are working on getting a band.

Marketing Committee

Sean McNamara reported that the Marketing Committee will meet either before or after the March Board Meeting. Sean is looking for more participants from the Board for this committee.

Old Business:

Proposal City Map – Henderson Printing

Laura presented a proposal from Henderson Printing to produce a new city of Ogdensburg map. After some discussion, it was decided that the Marketing Committee will discuss and present their recommendations to the board at a later date.

Renewal of Binghamton Welcome Center Contract

Laura noted that the contract with the Binghamton Travel Center is up for renewal. There was much discussion as to the value of this versus the cost. After much discussion a motion was made to discontinue the contract by Sarah Purdy. The motion was seconded by Marcia LeMay and carried by all.

Roundtable:

Sarah Purdy took a moment to let the Chamber Board and Laura how much she appreciates all the work they do to promote Ogdensburg and this it does not go unnoticed. Sean McNamara noted he is a new grandfather.

50/50 Raffle: Sarah Purdy won the 50/50 of \$12 and donated it back to the Chamber.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:44 was made by Lee Jones, seconded by Kevin McDonough and carried by all.

NEXT MEETING
Wednesday, March 15, 2017
DOBISKY VISITOR'S CENTER