

GREATER OGDENSBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
MINUTES
January 24, 2018
Dobisky Visitor's Center

Call Meeting to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Sean McNamara at 12:06 p.m. A quorum was present.

Members present: Sean McNamara, Michele Catlin, Kim Demers, Kevin McDonough, John Wade, Betsy Porter, Lee Jones, Derek VanHouse, Penny Kerfien, Dawn Merz, Lisa Woodward, John Missert, Craig Chevalier, Sarah Purdy, Kathy Bogart, Marcia LeMay and Rhonda Roethel.

Members excused: Chris Pitcher, Judy Ryan, Mike Thayer, Ray Babowicz, Becky Delles and Wayne Izzo.

Members absent: Sue Duffy

Introduction of Guest: President McNamara welcomed new board members Dawn Merz, Lisa Woodward, and John Missert.

Approval of December 20, 2017, meeting minutes: A motion was made by Craig Chevalier to approve the December 20, 2017, minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Lee Jones and carried by all.

President's Report & Correspondence: President McNamara read a resignation letter from board member Sue Duffy. She has moved to Waddington and will no longer be able to serve on the chamber board. A motion was made by Penny Kerfien to accept Sue Duffy's resignation. The motion was seconded by Lee Jones and carried all. The next person on the ballot is Shannon LeClair. A motion was made by John Wade to have Laura Pearson contact Shannon LeClair to see if she is still interested in serving on the board. The motion was seconded by Kim Demers and carried by all.

President McNamara reminded the board members that meeting attendance is important since we only meet once a month. As per the Chamber's bylaws, if a member misses three consecutive meetings, unexcused, they will receive in writing a request to resign from the board. This will be enforced in 2018.

President McNamara noted that the Executive Committee had met and had some suggested by law changes in regards to the board make up. It was suggested that the OBPA position be removed from the bylaws as we currently do not have any representation from them. A motion was made to change the bylaws as noted by Penny Kerfien, seconded by Kevin McDonough, and carried by all, except Sarah Purdy who opposed. The floor was opened back up as no discussion was offered before the final vote. After much discussion, this was tabled to the February meeting as the bylaws require that any proposed changes be made available to the full board ten days prior to voting on a change. The previous vote becomes null and void.

There was also some discussion about the OBPA not having an active rep on the board and some other underlying issues in regards to stipend, rent, and chamber support of the OBPA. A motion was made by Betsy Porter to have Marcia LeMay draft a letter to the director of the OBPA to clarify some outstanding issues. The motion was seconded by Craig Chevalier and carried by all. Marcia LeMay will draft letter and present at February board meeting.

President McNamara shared a Canton Chamber newsletter and Annual Dinner invitation, OCP Trivia Night flyer, NYSARC letter requesting a donation, Cerebral Palsy golf tournament flyer, Massena Chamber Annual Dinner invitation, Cornell Cooperative Extension workshop flyer, and a Penski Career Day flyer. All were passed around the table.

Treasurer's Report: Derek VanHouse reviewed the December 2017 financials. Current month's expenses are \$11,215.55, and income is \$5,539.61 leaving a net loss of \$5,675.94 for the month. Year to date income is \$109,311.82, and expenses are \$115,171.21 leaving a net year-to-date loss of \$5,859.39. It was noted that we had not received a portion of the 2016 NYS BASS reimbursement (\$350), 2017 NYS BASS reimbursement (\$3,008.56), 2017 OBPA stipend (\$5,000), and 2017 Annual Dinner payments (\$640). A motion was made by Craig Chevalier to approve the December's Treasurer's report as reported. The motion was seconded by Kim Demers, and carried by all.

Executive Director's Report:

- **Facebook** – Please visit the Chamber Facebook page and “like” & “share” it with your family and friends.
- **Student of the Month** – Thursday, January 4th – at OFA was Elexis Beaulieu and at BOCES was Brooke Ryor. Thank you to Ed-Med Federal Credit Union for sponsoring the OFA student and Jones Insurance Agency for sponsoring the BOCES student. The next presentation is scheduled for Thursday, February 1st.
- **Ogdensburg Pilot Bus Run** – We are still working out all the details but the pilot bus run will tentatively launch on February 26th – we are working on a ribbon cutting ceremony to kick it off.
- **Membership Renewal** notices were mailed out the last week of December. Please consider an Associate Membership for \$20/Family is \$30 – admission to (2) events and 10% off in the Crescent Store.
- **Vendor Event Packets** – We are working on mailing out vendor applications for all our events to our vendor mailing list which has over (570) names. Our vendors appreciate getting our event info early in the year so they can plan their calendars.
- **OBGC Expo** – scheduled for March 23, 24 & 25 – please sign up to work if you are able. We share a booth with the City of Ogdensburg and Fort LaPresentation. Barb will get her board members to help work, too. Laura is looking for possible ideas for the new Christmas ornament voting – we still have CHMC and the Customs Building – we need one more for the vote.
- **Annual Dinner/Thanksgiving Craft Show** – Laura will have a final report for each event after she completes the January financial report.

- **Ogdensburg Entrance Signs** – The new signs are up – they look amazing. Thanks to all our sponsors – Laura sent the invoices out early this week. We would like to do a photo opp. – when the weather improves – with the sponsors in front of their signs. We are also getting small brass plaques attached to the signs with the sponsor’s names.
- **Ogdensburg Drug-Free Coalition** – Laura has been invited to join this group to address the growing drug problem in our community. The mission of the committee is to raise awareness and share information on signs to look for and resources available in the area for addicts and their families. We meet on the second Thursday of the month at the Seaway Valley Prevention office on Ford Street.
- **Fort Feasibility Study** – Sean and Laura have been invited to participate in the Fort Feasibility Study for the proposed Visitor’s Information Center.
- **Historic Plane Committee** – Laura has been invited to help bring a historic plane to Ogdensburg as a tourist attraction.
- **Polar Bear Plunge** is scheduled for Saturday, March 10th – please sign up to work. Sponsor packets and plunger packets will be mailed in late December. We have the following sponsors to date: Akwesasne Mohawk Casino (resort package); Carlisle Law Firm (\$250); CHMC Foundation (\$100); Corning (\$100); Hoosier Magnetics (\$50); Marcia LeMay (\$250); Natural Nook (\$100); North Country Savings Bank (\$100) and volunteers to work; St. Lawrence Federal Credit Union (\$150) – total \$1350. Bill Hosmer contacted me – he and the Dirty Gringo are having a competition to see whose staff can raise the most money. I have ordered a polar bear costume – Kim will wear – to take pictures with the kids. We are going to run some press releases and photos – announcing “Polly the Polar Bear”.

Committee Reports:

See Executive Director’s report above for details.

Old Business:

- **Committee Choices**
- **Event Calendar Update**

Due to the lengthy discussion regarding the bylaws, these items are tabled until the February meeting.

New Business

2018 Budget – A motion was made by John Wade to accept the proposed 2018 Budget as presented; seconded by Kim Demers; motion was carried by all – abstained by one.

Roundtable

Nothing was reported.

50/50 Raffle: John Wade won the 50/50 of \$11.00 and donated it back to the Chamber.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:20 p.m. was made by Kim Demers, seconded by Dawn Merz and carried by all.

**NEXT MEETING Wednesday, February 21, 2018
DOBISKY VISITOR'S CENTER**