

**Minutes of the Meeting
Carman and Community Chamber
of Commerce
November 8th, 2022- 12:00pm**

Present In Person:

Jodi Winkler, Mayghan McEachern, Ken Reimer, Carmen Fotheringham, Marni Harrison, Erin Lemky, and Tyler King.

Via Zoom:

Carly Boklaschuk, Scott Johnston, Shannon Vaughan, Dean North, Trevor Klassen, and Marge Warkentine.

1. Call to order:

Marni Harrison called the meeting to order at 12:01pm

2. Introductions:

Introductions were made to all in attendance.

3. Approval of Agenda

Mayghan McEachern moved to accept the November agenda as circulated – Carmen Fotheringham
Seconded – Carried

4. Community Reports:

Community Groups

- **Communities in Bloom- As Attached**
- **The Back Door Youth Center- As Attached**
- **Community Futures Heartland- As Attached**
- **Carman Christmas Cheer Board- As Attached**

Town of Carman- Erin Lemky

The Chamber welcomed new elected councilor, Erin Lemky to the meeting. Erin will be the representative for the Town of Carman at Chamber meetings and events.

RM of Dufferin- Tyler Russell

Tyler sent his regrets, as he was dealing with an emergency water issue at the time of the meeting.

Director of Economic Development – Tyler King

- The main street water project is now complete until the road is repaired to original condition in the spring.
- Tyler recently took part in the Community Futures Heartland board training seminar and was also a part of the grant writing seminar that was held in Carman.
- ED Manitoba is looking for a new executive director Tyler is assisting the committee with this selection process.
- Economic Development planning for the Town and RM for 2023 and beyond has begun.

Carman and Dufferin Recreation- Sheena Nakonechny

Fall programs started and upcoming:

- Fall Clean Up Kits- Recycle Everywhere provided Recreation with free kits of 25 gloves, garbage bags and recycling bags to hand out to our community for a fall clean up. The Carman Collegiate, Carman Elementary, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all picked up kits to participate.
- AquaFit at Blue Crescent Hotel- 10-week session started October 4th, with 10 participants which is a full class. Instructors are high school students who teach then walk across to school.
- The RINK Power Skate – starts November 7th on B side, 8 sessions, 25 skaters.

- TM Goaltending Clinic – started Oct 21st on B side Arena with 12 goalies.
- My Gym Gymnastics- located at the community hall starts on November 14th for 6 sessions, with 32 kids registered so far.
- Dog Safety Class- took place yesterday at the community hall, partnering with Safe Communities.
- CDR Annual 3 on 3 Tournament- registration opens November 10th. 12 team tournament, located on A and B side December 29th, 2022.
- Drop-In Basketball- is trying to be planned at Carman Collegiate. More information to come.
- Hall Walking- will begin after Remembrance Day on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursdays from 9:00-11:00am. This is a free drop-in program all winter.
- Public Skating and Open Hockey- has started now that B side is open. Public skating is scheduled Monday-Friday between 9:30-11:00am, as well as on weekends based on availability. Open Hockey is scheduled when the B side is available in the evenings, or on weekends. This is a free drop-in program.
- Kinnettes Club of Carman- made a \$1000.00 donation towards these free arena programs for our community.

5. **Approval of Minutes:**

Mayghan McEachern moved to accept the minutes of the October 11th, 2022 meeting as circulated. Scott Johnston seconded – Carried

6. **Financial Report:**

The balance in the ACU chequing account as of November 8th 2022 is \$22 992.89. The Chamber buck account balance is \$7897.21 and the Business Support Fund account balance is \$13263.69. Carmen Fotheringham moved to accept the November financials as circulated. Mayghan McEachern Seconded- Carried

7. **Chamber Committee Reports:**

Membership Committee:

Due to the lack of committee members, the membership committee will not be able to make calls to every member this year. Instead, the committee has sent a brief membership survey. This survey was well received and the committee will take the feedback from members and work on a plan for 2023. If you were not able to complete the survey, please reach out to a committee member with your comments or concerns. The committee will look to recruit new members for 2023.

Business Awards:

Nominations are being accepted for these awards until Monday, November 14th, 2022. The awards will be announced on December 1st, 2022 at the Bell Aura Bed and Breakfast at 7:30pm. We hope that you are able to join us for an evening of acknowledgement and celebration of the winners and nominees.

8. **President's Report- Marni Harrison**

- November Report Attached

9. **Executive Director's Report – Jodi Winkler**

- November Report Attached

10. **Chamber Business Old and New**

- **Career Fair-** November 16th at Carman Collegiate
- **Business Awards-** December 1st at Bell Aura Bed and Breakfast
- **Holiday Hoopla-** Thursday, December 8th
- **Keep The Cheer Here Campaign-** Will run through the month of December on both social media platforms. Please contact Jodi if you are interested in sponsoring Chamber Bucks for this campaign.
- **Breakfast with Santa-** Hosted by Homestead Co-op on December 10th at the Community Hall.

11. Round Table Discussion

- Remembrance Day service will be held at the Community Hall on November 11th at 10:30 am.
- Night of Laughs, hosted by the Boyne River Keepers and the Dufferin Ag Society, will be held at the Active Living Center on December 3rd. Contact the DAS to reserve your table.
- Carman Golf Course card draw is at 49 cards. Next card draw will be held on November 18th, 2022.
- Carman Kinette's One Stop Shop in the Hall will take place on Saturday, November 19th at the Carman Community Hall.
- GPAC member show and sale will be held this month, as well as their concert series continues with Fretless on November 25th, 2022.
- Peace Lily Therapeutics will be hosting Men's Meditation classes, as well as their Wednesday evening market. More information is available on their website or through GPAC.
- Back On Cue Theater will host their performances on November 25th and 26th at the Collegiate Theater. Tickets are now available.
- Carman curling club will be hosting mixed doubles curling on Friday evenings at the curling club. Contact Dean for more information.

12. Next Meeting – December 13th, 2022 – Memorial Hall and Zoom

13. Motion made by Mayghan McEachern to adjourn the meeting at 12:35 pm

Communities in Bloom Report- Submitted by Susan Mooney and Judy McGregor

CIB is a not-for-profit volunteer organization with the goal of beautifying the community and enhancing the quality of life through people & plants to create community pride. Community involvement & continuous improvement is the essence of the program.

In 2019 a community meeting was held to learn about Communities in Bloom (CIB) & to determine if this was a worthwhile competition to pursue once again – originally it was held in 2001 -2002 with great success. A unanimous decision was made to begin the process with several people volunteering to get involved in planning and organizing a CIB competition.

And then Covid changed everything.

Despite cancellation of the provincial competition, Carman/Dufferin CIB decided to carry on, meeting by Zoom for 2 years. Manitoba CIB criteria made it easy to set goals & priorities for the beautification of Carman by following their 6 guidelines: overall *Community Appearance, Environmental Action, Heritage Conservation, Tree management, Enhancement of Green Spaces & Plant Floral Displays.*

4 successful projects for Carman/Dufferin CIB in the past year included:

a.) "Boyneside Park"- the creation of a pocket park on the banks of the Boyne River near Riverview Senior Apartments. Pocket Parks are small outdoor spaces that give life to unused vacant lots. A generous donation of trees from Aubin Nurseries, several ambitious, dedicated volunteers & school children planted trees. Beds of native prairie grasses & flowers (that complemented the natural beauty of Boyne River) were planted. Within 2 years, and during a pandemic, this rundown space became an attractive, accessible, picturesque park.

b.) Planters- a generous donation from Carman Area Foundation allowed for the purchase of 8 planters; 5 of which were used; 3 are on backorder. The flowers were planted by Town of Carman Public works & CIB volunteers. Placed strategically along Main Street the planters looked stunning all summer long thanks to the diligent watering of Carman Public works.

c.) "Grow a Gardener" Program- a mental wellbeing grant from Southern Health allowed 3 families with 3 young children to have 2 plots in the Community Garden and experience growing a garden. An additional 11 children took part in two garden-related educational sessions. Facilitator, Julie Ruban McDonald, coordinated this successful project.

d.) "Year of the Garden" 2022- was proclaimed by the Town of Carman & Dufferin to highlight the multiple benefits of gardening for the health of individuals, our community, and the environment.

CIB created a project called "Yard of the Week" with recognition of private residences in July/22; Riverbank yards, Business Frontage & rural property recognition in August/22.

This project took numerous volunteer hours to implement, but the positive responses from the recipients made it very worthwhile.

CIB thanks the Standard newspaper and local businesses for all their support for this project.

An amazing year of activity for CIB made possible by the generosity of countless hours of volunteer hard work with planting trees & flowers, & fundraising. The co-operation & diligence from the Town of Carman Public Works department to keep the planters looking spectacular all summer long was very appreciated. CIB will continue its quest to work together to beautify our community.

The Back Door Youth Center Report- Submitted by Tyler Friesen

Thanks so much for the opportunity to share what's going on!

Capital: Lots of work happening on site and many decisions are being made in the background. We are excited about how things are going and what this space will mean for the future of the drop-in and caring for students in our area! The final budget for the building and equipping and furnishing of the space is \$1.75 million dollars which is a lot but we think investing in students is worth every penny. We have currently raised \$1.3 million and would love to have the space paid off when we open in early summer. So, if anyone has year-end giving left in their budget, I would love to chat or even give you a tour of the project!

Banquet: The banquet happened on Friday, November 4th. We were so glad to be able to be in person again and share what was going on. Funds are still being tallied. There is a virtual option happening on November 18 if any are still interested.

Programming: All of our programs will be up and running as of November 9th for the new ministry year, which is 4 weekly programs and 2 that happen every other week. We have had SO MANY kids coming and we are so grateful to Carman Mennonite Church for allowing us to use their space for free!

Community Futures Heartland Report- Submitted by Ken Reimer

Community Futures Heartland's mandate is to encourage entrepreneurship and small businesses in our region.

Training Sessions

- 1.) October 25 – We had a great workshop in Carman with Melisa Stefanuw from Decipher Services Inc. There were 12 Non-Profit Organizations being represented by 19 participants.
- 2.) November 21 – CF Heartland in conjunction with Homefield Marketing will be hosting a Strategic Planning Workshop where you will learn the following:
Strategic planning for your business:
 - Learn the components of strategic thinking
 - Explore strategic thinking tools and how they can improve how we operate and make decisions
 - Identify business challenges and problem-solve around them to impact the future of your business
 - Learn practical ways to uncover opportunities
 - Engage in a collaborative Q&A session with other participants to help uncover solutions to business challengesThis will be held at the Herman Prior Center in Portage la Prairie on Monday November 21st from 7-9pm. Cost is \$25.
11-2nd Street N.E. Portage la Prairie, Manitoba R1N 1R8
- 3.) December 6 – Business Success Workshop with Lois Gray and Ben Isakov. Topics include how you can find an extra \$45,000 of revenue in 45 minutes without spending an extra dime on advertising. Learn the top ten value drivers that every business must have. Lois is a Certified Management Consultant, and Ben has two decades of Operations Management experience. Come for breakfast and spend the morning learning how to make your business more successful. December 6 from 7:30am to noon in Winkler. Exact location to be determined.
- 4.) Upcoming workshops in the new year include Developing and Managing a Team, and Recruitment and Selection. Stay tuned to our social media for more information.
- 5.) Stay up to date with our Social Media platforms.
 - a. Website: www.cfheartland.ca
 - b. Twitter: @CFHeartland
 - c. Instagram: CF Heartland
 - d. Facebook: Community Futures Heartland
- 6.) Come visit us at the Career Fair at the Carman Collegiate November 16.
- 7.) Concerned about rising interest rates? Our business loans have a fixed interest rate for the entire term, so you know what your payment will be every month, for the duration of the loan.

Carman and District Christmas Cheer Report- Submitted by Deana Gould

The Carman and District Christmas Cheer Board regularly services Carman and its immediate rural community as well as Elm Creek, Haywood, Fannystelle, St. Claude, Roland, and Sperling. Our 2022 campaign will begin November 15 and will conclude on delivery day December 15.

We rely on our community to support our efforts in ensuring each family in need will receive a hamper this Christmas.

We are asking for donations of gifts for children from newborn through aged 14. Businesses and organizations are welcome to put out a box for this collection. Please send us a photo of the box to be shared on social media. Collection boxes can be picked up by Cheer Board volunteers the morning of December 13 or dropped at the hall by noon. If your business would like to arrange pick up, please make the arrangement by December 9.

We would prefer monetary donations over donations of food. This is a difficult thing to ask, however we receive countless cans of expired goods that we cannot use and then must dispose of. If an organization is planning on a "a tin for the bin" collection at an event, of course we will happily take those donations and make use of what we can. So, this is to say that given the choice, we would prefer collection boxes placed in the community be for gifts rather than food. Over the past few years, we have worked with groups to collect specific items. If your business would like to be involved in a special collection, please reach out to me and we can discuss the options.

For those wishing to make a monetary donation, and curious about the cost of a hamper, I suggest the following:

Small (1-3 people) \$125

Medium (4-7 people) \$150

Large (8+) \$200

Monetary donations may be mailed to our treasurer, Tracy Owen, at Box 1555. Often corporate donations provide a great photo op for mutual advertising building goodwill for your company and gets our campaign some press. If interested see contact information below. E-transferring of donations may be made through carmanchristmas@gmail.com.

I ask that businesses interested in sending volunteers please register by emailing carmanchristmas@gmail.com.

We require upwards of 1000 boxes. If you have boxes to donate, please text me 204-745-0545. I will get them out of your space ASAP.

I'd like to thank the Chamber for this opportunity to get this information out, and thanks to all our business who help make our campaign a success.

President's Report- November Meeting

I am so thankful for the extra fall weather, are we sure it's not still September??

Lots of events coming up in the next little bit. Thanks to everyone for showing an interest in our Career Fair coming up November 16th at the Collegiate – still space available for your business if you haven't committed already. High School students from Carman Collegiate, Dufferin Christian School, Elm Creek and Miami schools will all be in attendance. Maybe one of them will be the "employee of the year" at your organization in 5 years – better your business than someone else's!

If you took the time to fill in the survey, thank you. If you did not, we always are seeking member feedback. That being said, our annual call-outs for the feedback are not feasible at this time. The Chamber is growing, and getting busier. We need members to volunteer on committees if we want events and activities to happen! You do not need to be a director or on executive to sit on a committee.

Please also consider nominating someone for our Chamber awards being handed out in a month – everyone loves to be recognized, so take a moment to highlight someone outstanding!

As we enter into the Christmas season, please make an effort to shop local. We are blessed with many great businesses in Carman – they make our community great, so let's support them!!

Congratulations to the new councils. The Chamber looks forward to collaborating with you over the next 4 years! Marni

Executive Director Report- November Meeting

Hello Members,

I trust that you are all enjoying this amazing weather we are experiencing and taking the time to enjoy it while it is here.

October was a great month for the Chamber!

Congratulations to Larry Stout on his retirement from his business of 38 years. The Chamber was host to a somewhat "surprise" retirement party for Larry on October 20th at his business. Thank you to all of you that were able to attend this event. The turnout was incredible and Larry felt very honored by the number of people that were able to come and wish him well. He closed his doors to the public on October 29th and he reported to me that "there was not a shoelace left in his building". He thanks the community for their support over the years and he looks forward to seeing all of his customers support Archway Dairy, as they will now have western and work wear inventory in their storefront, which is located just north of his shop.

Thank you to those of you that completed the Membership survey that was sent out earlier this month. The feedback was very valuable and we appreciate the comments, questions and few concerns that you had. If you did complete this survey and would like to discuss some of your ideas further, please feel free to reach out to myself or the executive. The survey was completed anonymously, so we are not able to associate a member with some of the comments that were brought forth.

The municipal election was held on October 26th and congratulations to all of the newly elected councillors and Reeve. I look forward to working with all of you and would also like to thank the outgoing council for all of their hard work and dedication to our community over the past four years.

The onboarding of our new membership platform is complete and I hope to have this introduced to members in the coming days. I am very excited about the opportunities that this platform will provide our growing chamber and I hope that you are able to utilize the benefits that it will provide you as a member. Plans are set for our Career Fair at the Collegiate on November 16th. We are looking forward to a great afternoon at the Collegiate. If you did not contact me regarding a booth at this event, but are still interested, please reach out as there is still room for more to join.

Nominations are now being accepted for the Chamber Business awards. Please consider nominating a deserving business or individual in our community.

Nominations will be accepted until November 14th, so send yours in today!

The Business Awards will be handed out at our annual Chamber Business Awards Evening on Thursday, December 1st, at 7:30pm at the Bell Aura Bed and Breakfast. We hope that you will plan to join us, and more information regarding this event will be sent to you in the coming weeks, so watch your inbox. Our second annual Holiday Hoopla will take place on Thursday, December 8th! SHOP LATE and WIN! Shop at any of our participating retailers on Thursday, December 8th from Noon until 8:00pm and enter to WIN \$1000 in CHAMBER BUCKS! More details will be available on our social media platforms, so be sure to follow us!

As the holiday season sneaks up on us, please remember to keep it local as much as you can. We have great businesses that need our support. We can eat local, enjoy local and support local this holiday season!

Thanks for all you do to make our community one to be proud of!

Sincerely,

Jodi Winkler, Executive Director, Carman and Community Chamber of Commerce