

**Minutes of the Zoom Meeting
Carman and Community Chamber
of Commerce
January 11th, 2022- 12:00pm**

Present: Jodi Winkler, Tyler King, Marni Harrison, Kelly Dyck, Cor Lodder, Sheena Nakonechny, Richard Dyck, George Gray, Jeanne Karlenzig, Michelle Aldie, Trish Middleton, Nancy Swain, Marge Warkentin, Karen Tjaden, Maxine Toews, Tyler Friesen, Scott Johnston, Trevor Klassen, Mark Peters, Brian Maxwell, Carly Boklaschuk, Ashley Friesen, Dean North, and Nancy Chatwin.

1. Call to order:

Marni Harrison called the meeting to order at 12:00pm

2. Introductions:

Introductions were made to all in attendance.

3. Approval of Agenda

Cor Lodder moved to accept the January agenda as circulated – Kelly Dyck Seconded – Carried

4. Community Reports:

Community Groups

-The Back Door Youth Center – Tyler Friesen

- As attached

Director of Economic Development – Tyler King

- Tyler recently attended a presentation at the Carman Collegiate where grade 9 students brought forth their suggestions on improvements for the Town of Carman. These ideas were well received and Tyler enjoyed the presentations.
- Carman Memorial Hospital is closed temporarily for HVAC upgrades. The facility hopes to reopen in 6 weeks. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

Town of Carman – Richard Dyck

- The Town has implemented a Covid Policy whereas TOC workers must show proof of vaccination or do rapid testing every three days.
- Council is working on year end financial reports and community grants.
- The water tower is now down and the town has decided to keep the structure and a placement will be decided soon. The site is now cleaned up and grass will be planted in the spring.

RM Rep- George Gray

- RM council held their priority meeting where the councillors submitted their lists of need and wants for their area.
- The Pembina Valley Water Corp is very happy with their developments over the past year and will look forward to spring with the hopes of a lot of precipitation over the winter months.

Carman and Dufferin Recreation- Sheena Nakonechny

- The Carman Dufferin Arena has many availabilities for Ice rentals as well as Open Hockey and Public Skating times throughout the holidays.
- The snowshoe lending program is back. Details are available online.
- Aquafit started this week at the pool at the Blue Crescent Hotel.
- CDR has started working on summer programming.

5. Approval of Minutes:

Kelly Dyck moved to accept the minutes of the December 14th, 2021 meeting as circulated. Cor Lodder seconded - Carried

6. Financial Report:

The balance in the ACU chequing account as of January 11th, 2022 is \$20089.91. The Chamber buck account balance is \$25226.03 and the Business Support Fund account balance is \$13127.87. Kelly Dyck moved to accept the January financial statement as circulated. Scott Johnston Seconded – Carried

7. Chamber Committee Reports:

Membership Committee:

The membership committee will meet at the end of this month and will look to establish new members. The Sponsor a Member program is back. This program encourages existing members to sponsor a NEW member (hasn't been a member in the last 5 years) at the reduced rate of \$50. We hope that this sponsorship shows the new member the value that the Chamber can add to their business without the cost of the membership for the first year

8. President's Report- Marni Harrison

- January Report Attached

9. Executive Director's Report – Jodi Winkler:

- January Report Attached

10. Chamber Business Old and New- None Presented

11. Round Table Discussion

- Wheat and Waves will be hosting their 3rd Anniversary Event on January 28th, 2022. 100% of the proceeds from sales on this day will go directly to MacKenzie Gaultier.
- Our condolences to Alice Veenendaal of Evensong on the recent passing of her husband
- Storefront businesses are looking for an incentive for February. Typically, sales in February are low and they are wondering if there is anything that the Chamber could do to help with this. Jodi will brainstorm ideas for something to host in February.

12. Next Meeting – Tuesday, February 8th, 2022 – Memorial Hall and Zoom

13. Motion made by Dean North to adjourn the meeting at 12:28 pm

Community Reports- The Back Door Youth Center- Submitted by Tyler Friesen

Our November banquet ended up bringing in over \$53,000 in sponsorships and donations, a very good year!

We continue to run a full, full slate of programs which are regularly taken in by 20-30 students, sometimes more! We are grateful current restrictions allow for us to be open, and hope that continues, but always strive to have our community's best interests in mind!

We have been able to hand out over 50 frozen pizzas and a 2L pop and over 80 toques as Christmas gifts to our local students and will continue to hand those things out in the coming weeks! We were also able to hand out \$400 in chamber bucks thanks to the Chamber's generosity, so thank you!!

We came up just \$9,000 short on our year-end, \$1 million goal. So, we would still love to get that \$9,000 taken care of before our spring building start, and there is still \$24,000 in matching funds we would like to take advantage of! We are in the decision-making process of hiring a project manager, and waiting on drawings from Steckley Consulting Engineers.

One of our last hurdles is the likely need for temporary space during construction. So, if anyone has any leads, we would love to hear from you!

President's Report- January Meeting

Happy 2022,

I hope you found time to take a break from your businesses and enjoy time with your family and friends (whatever that might have looked like) and had a moment to reflect on the positives 2021 brought.

As a Chamber we had our most successful year to date, with our membership growing, and engagement from our members at an all-time high. We were honored to be a part of your network over the past year, and as things settle away from a focus on restrictions, we want to continue to provide value to our members.

We are hopeful that we see new faces on the various committees and that you bring us your ideas for how we can be of assistance to you going forward.

As we head into a "shopping lull" following the holidays, I would encourage you to further focus on shopping local in the coming weeks. Our businesses are amazing, and form the basis of our community. Be sure to show them they are appreciated!

Moving into a new year we would like to remind our members that our network is large, but we don't want anyone left out. Please encourage those who are not a part of the chamber to reach out, or perhaps consider our sponsorship. All existing members can sponsor a business (that has not been a member in the last 5 years), for only \$50.00.

Cheers to you all as we venture into 2022,

Marni.

Executive Director Report- January Meeting

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a restful and happy holiday season and that you were able to stay healthy during the recent spike in Covid numbers.

December was a busy month of giving! We were able to award \$6700 in "Keep the Cheer Here" Chamber Bucks to lucky winners on our social media platforms, as well as "Spread the Cheer" with our additional grant monies.

Congratulations to all of our winners! We had 67 winners that won \$100 in Chamber Bucks at various businesses within our community. We donated \$1000 in Chamber Bucks to Carman and Community Christmas Cheer, \$500 in Chamber Bucks to the Backdoor and purchased \$2000 in gift cards that were presented to our local health care workers. Thank you to the man in red, Andy Poulton for his enthusiasm during this event. Our small, but heartfelt parade for the health care workers was very well received and I have had many comments from staff at both the Boyne Lodge and the Carman Memorial Hospital on how much they appreciated this gesture.

Thursday Evening Holiday Hoopla was held on December 9th and it was an amazing evening! Thank you to all of the local retailers that took part in the evening and a huge thanks to all of you that participated by shopping local that evening. The streets were buzzing and the atmosphere in the business district was very heart warming. Thank you to the Boyne Regional Library for the Christmas music that was played that evening and continued throughout the holiday season. Congratulations to the winner of our \$1000 Chamber Buck draw, Wynita Nichols! I hope that these chamber bucks assisted with your holiday shopping.

Thank you again to the Manitoba Chamber of Commerce for the opportunity to utilize these funds and assist our businesses during the holiday season. Spreading Holiday Cheer is one of my favorite things to do!

2022 Membership packages are getting set to be sent out in the coming weeks. I hope that you will remain active and involved in the Chamber and I welcome any comments or suggestions that may increase the value of your membership.

2021 was the Chamber's most successful year to date, and I thank you, the members, for making my job fun and rewarding.

Stay Well.

Jodi Winkler

Executive Director, Carman and Community Chamber of Commerce