

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

Present In Person:

Jodi Winkler, Tyler King, Marni Harrison, Kelly Dyck, Sheena Nakonechny, Nancy Chatwin, Richard Dyck, Melissa Emerson/Froebe, George Gray, Desiree Penner, Mayghan McEachern, Cor Lodder and Dale Reimer.

Via Zoom:

Trish Middleton, Dean North, Kayla Morden, Shannon Vaughan, Yemi, and Scott Vanderveen.

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

Dale Reimer moved to accept the March agenda as circulated – Mayghan McEachern Seconded – Carried

4. Community Reports:

Community Groups-

Golden Prairie Arts Council- presented by Desiree Penner

- As attached

Director of Economic Development – Tyler King

- The storefront improvement grant applications were due on Tuesday, March 1st. There were many applications and the committee is excited to award these grants to deserving businesses. Thank you to Community Futures Heartland for their contribution of the additional support to this grant.
- The Good Sam Club will be camping in Carman at the end of May, beginning of June. Businesses will be contacted regarding donations to the goody bags that the participants will receive when they arrive in Carman.
- Central Manitoba Tourism has finally announced their 2021 award winners. There were 3 local winners and Tyler will be in contact with these individuals and announce the winners publicly this week.

Town of Carman – Richard Dyck

- The financial plan for 2022 will be presented at the next council meeting and we are looking at a 1 mill increase in order to maintain services and to keep working on fixing streets and sidewalks.
- Vaccination policy was reviewed last week, with a few amendments being proposed in order to be in step with the MB health orders as they change. We have received a few emails and comments recently and will be responding to all with a united response.
- Council recently received a presentation from Regional Connections. This organization has a satellite office in the Hall basement which is used one day per week. There are several satellites in the Pembina Valley region with the main office located in Morden, and it is funded by the federal government. This local non-profit organization provides settlement, employment, and language programs for newcomers.

RM Rep- George Gray

- The RM is also reviewing their vaccination policy similar to the Town of Carman.
- RM budget will be presented in the coming weeks.
- Pembina Valley Water Co-op is looking for grants for improvements in the coming year.

Carman and Dufferin Recreation- Sheena Nakonechny

- The Carman Dufferin Arena has many availabilities for Ice rentals still available for March.
- Hall walking has resumed at the Community Hall on Tuesday and Thursdays from 9-10am.
- Aquafit registration opens on March 24th.
- Dog Obedience classes start April 19th.
- Babysitters Course will be held on April 30th.
- Swimming Lesson and Campground Registration open April 12th

5. Approval of Minutes:

Dale Reimer moved to accept the minutes of the February 8th, 2022 meeting as circulated. Nancy Chatwin seconded - Carried

6. Financial Report:

The balance in the ACU chequing account as of March 8th, 2022 is 26831.23. The Chamber buck account balance is \$13909.30 and the Business Support Fund account balance is \$13141.23.

Kelly Dyck moved to accept the March financial statement as circulated. Dale Reimer Seconded – Carried

7. Chamber Committee Reports:

Membership Committee:

The membership committee will meet in March with plans to make calls to those members that have not yet paid their 2022 membership fees.

In April and May, the committee will focus on increasing memberships.

Golf Committee:

The golf committee met last week and are excited to host the Chamber Golf Tournament on June 23rd and the Access Credit Union Pro Am on August 26th, 2022. The committee has started calling sponsors for support of this year's tournaments.

AGM:

The AGM is scheduled to be held at 6:30pm on Friday, April 8th, 2022 at the Carman Blue Crescent Hotel. More details to come.

8. President's Report- Marni Harrison

- March Report Attached

9. Executive Director's Report – Jodi Winkler:

- March Report Attached

10. Chamber Business Old and New- None Presented

11. Round Table Discussion

- Peace Lily Therapeutics will have a new storefront at the end of the month. Mayghan and her business will be moving to the front area of her existing location.
- The Carman Golf Course card draw is at \$6500 with 14 cards remaining. This draw is held every Friday evening at 7:30 at the Golf Course restaurant.
- The Golf Club will be holding a social on Thursday, April 14th at the Clubhouse. This will be a fundraiser for the golf club.
- Beginning April 1st, the golf course restaurant will be open on weekends.
- The Chick Chef mixed provincials will be held at the Carman Curling Club the weekend of March 18-20, 2022.
- Congratulations to Shayla Hayward and her rink from Carman who recently won the High School Girls Curling Provincial Championships. Well done girls!

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

13. Motion made by Kelly Dyck to adjourn the meeting at 12:29 pm

Community Reports- Golden Prairie Arts Council

Please see our March newsletter for an exciting line up of events going on at GPAC in March! This email newsletter goes out monthly to 355 subscribers. Anyone can sign up to receive the newsletter on our website: www.goldneprairieartscouncil.com
During Covid-19, we have managed to increase our membership from 50 to 130. Membership is only \$25 annually, business membership is \$150 annually.

We have also completed extensive renovations to the train station such as: new flooring throughout the main floor, replaced upstairs bathroom, upgraded electrical issues, replaced the back door concrete pad, and upgraded the parking lot. Plans for 2023 include renovating the upstairs kitchen and supply room to create more useable space, extending our outdoor fence project, re-painting the exterior, and adding wheelchair accessible seating in the courtyard.

Don't forget to check out the artwork at the library-this is our second year of partnership with them to showcase artists in our catchment area and give people the opportunity to win a beautiful piece of art! Tickets are only \$5 and available at GPAC and the library-artwork is on display until December 9th when the winners will be drawn. This is a great opportunity to support art and literature in the community.

GPAC will be presenting an outdoor music festival on Friday July 22 and Saturday July 23 in Ryall Park. We are still very much in the planning stages but stay tuned for exciting details! There will be live performance, a kids show, teens/young adult show Friday night, food trucks, artisan tents and more! We are currently seeking sponsorship for the event.

President's Report- March Meeting

On the way to school this morning the kids and I were guessing as to when the snow would be gone. Upon review of my report from a year ago I noted "And just like that it feels like spring."

Although winter seems endless, it is exciting that plans to gather are in full swing.

We look forward to meeting with you at Meet and Greets, the Chamber Golf Tournament on June 23, and perhaps a couple of other events that are in the planning stages.

Big congratulations to the young ladies who won the February Chamber Survivor, they are going to have so much fun planning and spending their gift cards! Bid kudos to Jodi for the idea and execution – it was a huge success, and a definite repeat event.

Please note that without member feedback, we would not have known that February is a month that you are looking to bolster cashflow. Your feedback is a big part of our success, so please keep it coming!

2022 is looking to be a great year of positive activity for the Chamber, let us all take time to appreciate how blessed we are. Marni.

Executive Director Report- March Meeting

I am not sure what the general consensus was on the 1st of this month, but to me it felt like March came in like a lamb. Fingers crossed that Mother Nature agrees that we have dealt with enough lions already this year, and spring is just around the corner. Either way, we were looking for moisture, and we have been blessed with it this winter.

We have "Survived February!" Our Surviving February gift card challenge was a HUGE success! Thank you to all that participated! The support was overwhelming and we ended up with 61 teams! That is \$6100 in gift cards purchased in the first 2 weeks of February! WOW! Congratulations to all of the winners throughout the month and a BIG CONGRATS to Team WWWF. This team of Chloe Winkler, Paige Fotheringham, Ameila Wytnick and Casey Winkler were the lucky winners of the grand prize of 125 - \$25 gift cards to spend at local businesses. Congratulations and Happy Shopping ladies!

2022 Membership packages have been sent out and thank you to those of you that have already sent in your membership fees. If you did not receive your package in the mail yet, please let me know and I will be sure to get a new one out to you. If you have not yet sent in your 2022 Membership fees, please do so soon, as we don't want you to miss out on any of the great benefits that the Chamber has to offer.

I am looking forward to meeting in person and it is never too late to host an after-hours business mixer, where we invite Chamber members to your business for a couple of hours of fellowship and networking. Please let me know if your business would be interested in hosting an event such as this. I would be more than happy to work on the plans with you.

As we look forward to warm sunshine and rounds of golf, we can also start to look forward the opening of McGee's and Syls' and for course, POUTINE WEEK! This annual event will be held May 9th-15th. More details will be provided in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!

As always, stay safe, count your blessings and I look forward to SEEING you all in the very near future.

Jodi Winkler

Executive Director, Carman and Community Chamber of Commerce