

Russell & District Chamber of Commerce

General Meeting Minutes

May 25th, 2017 – 6:30 pm - Club Café

Present: Tyler Kilkenny, Jen Seib, Chris Radford, Todd Sawyer, Deena Bishop, Becky Flundra, Daralyn Davidson, Spence Reavie, Marcia Rowat, Jim Mason, Ray Elliott and Colynda Wyatt.

Recording Secretary: Colynda Wyatt

- 1) Tyler Kilkenny called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm
- 2) Tyler introduced new members –
 - a. Daralyn Davidson from Manitoba Youth Employment Centre
 - b. Deena Bishop from the ParkWest Regional Employment Resource Centre
 - c. Todd Sawyer from TinHouse Designs & Coffee Co.
 - d. Colynda Wyatt – new interim office manager for Brittany Pushka

- 3) Adoption of May 25th, 2017 Agenda
Tyler made some corrections to the Agenda and the order of New Business.

Motion: Becky/Jim

That the corrected agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried.

- 4) No previous meeting minutes were available (Feb 22nd, 2017)

- 5) Financial Report

Motion: Spence/Jim

That the financial report be adopted as presented.

Carried.

6) Committee Reports

Asessippi Parkland Tourism

- Sadie wasn't in attendance but had included a brief report in our package
- May long weekend events were positive, no financial numbers available yet.
- Starting work on the January visitors guide
- Their AGM will be June 14th at the Asessippi Beach Campground. All welcome to attend!
- Kendra Robinson has started as our summer student and another student will be hired soon.

Employment Resource Centre – Deena Bishop

- Deena gave a brief rundown on the current employment rate of their clients. They have 141 clients and 79% are unemployed.
- **There are employer wage subsidies available, see Deena for more information.**
- The ParkWest Regional Employment and Development Corporation (PREDC) operates as a non-profit organization. PREDC operates with board member representation from each area within the region served: RM of Ellice – Archie (Francophone community), Rural Municipality of Hamiota, Rural Municipality of Rosburn, Rural Municipality of Russell – Binscarth, Prairie View Municipality, Birdtail Sioux First Nation, Gambler First Nation and Waywayseecappo First Nation.

- Daralyn Davidson gave a rundown on the Manitoba Youth Job Centre that opened for business on May 15th.
- She handed out a Free Referral Service for Employers. This has been emailed to the Chamber members.
- The Odd Job Squad is organizing the **Town Wide Garage Sale on July 7th & 8th, 2017**
- The MYJC will be hosting an Open House on Monday, May 29th from 1-4. Ribbon cutting at 2:00 pm. Tyler will attend on behalf of the Chamber.

Economic Development – Marcia Rowat

- The 15th Annual National Fly Fishing Championships runs May 28th – June 3rd with Opening Ceremonies in Rosburn, MB. There are 38 fishermen registered to fish at the various lakes for the competition. The awards banquet is being held June 3rd at the Roblin Community Centre. Please visit <http://www.parklandsparadise.ca/NFFC2017.html> for more information.
- Biz Camp runs August 28-Sept 1st at the Russell Regional Multiplex. Open to youth aged 9-13. See Marcia for more information
- The Municipality has to an Accessibility Plan that involves all the businesses in the municipality. Your business must be accessible to the public via entrance, internet, home delivery etc. For more information on this please contact the municipal office.
- The Library construction is ongoing, still waiting for blue prints from MMP Architects.
- Park Manor will have a Grand Opening in June. There are 10 vacancies. For more information on Park Manor contact Patti Reagh or Bob Ross.
- The Tri-Roads Planning District is in the process of gathering feedback for the Development Plan and Zoning By-laws review. We want to hear your vision for the future of the Tri-Roads area. Drop in during one of our sessions listed below to speak with us, you are free to come and go at your convenience. If you have any questions contact:
Michelle Richard, 204-594-1484; michelle@richardwintrup.ca:
 - **June 7th** at the Russell Memorial Multiplex from 6:00 to 8:00 PM
 - Riding Mountain West Municipal Office in Inglis from 6:30 to 8:30PM
 - **June 8th** at the Binscarth Drop-In Centre from 6:30 to 8:30PM
 - Riding Mountain West Municipal Office in Angusville from 7:00 to 9:00PM

Visitor Information Centre – Tyler Kilkenny

- Kendra Robinson has been hired and there will be more interviews tomorrow to hire one more summer staff.
- The executive has come up with a list of jobs for the summer students to work at this year.

Networking Before Nine – Marcia Rowat

- Haven't met the last couple of months, very busy with Canada 150
- **Next meeting is June 16th at 7:30 a.m. at TinHouse**

7. Community Reports

- M.R.B. – no report
- R.A.H.A.C. – Christ Radford reported they haven't had any meetings lately, they need more people to join the board, they're down to 4 members.

8. Old Business

- i. There will be a Finance & Economic Development meeting regarding Business Tax on June 12th at 7:30 am in the Civic Centre Brad Room.
- ii. Canada 150 was successful. Sadie put a lot of hard work into the events and it was well received. There were 63 floats in the parade for Darren Boryskavich. Good job all! The only disappointment was the turn out at the social on Friday night.

9. New Business

- i. Tyler informed the group that Colynda and Brittany worked on getting the office up to date for day to day operations. Colynda will be away from July 7-Aug 12th and Kendra will be given a few more duties and responsibilities during that time. Brittany will attend the office a couple of hours a week to make sure everything is running smoothly.
- ii. The Chamber will be sending letters to the Beef & Barley Committee asking for funding for the Community Billboard Sign to be put up at Co-op and for the landscaping they want done around the digital billboard sign at the Travel Booth.
- iii. Marcia, Tyler and Sadie met to discuss the Travel Booth funding. The current contract is up with Manitoba Tourism so a new proposal is being drafted, asking them to continue funding with an increase.
- iv. Spence Reavie was introduced as our delegate speaker.

- a. **Main Street Revitalization** - They plan to continue with the bump outs and lighting on the south end of Main St. There are a set of guidelines in place and the committee would like to see more main street buildings renovated to match the theme.
- b. **Arches** – Spence gave a history of the arches. Originally constructed in 2006/07 and unfortunately had to be taken down in 2016 due to wood rot. The arches on main street really drew tourists and they've been missed. They plan to erect them again, this time from steel and they are adding two more for a total of 10 arches. They want to place one at the entrances of town (Hwy 16 & Main St and Hwy 83 and Manitoba Ave)

They are asking the Municipality to extend the current funding agreement for another 15 years. They've made a presentation to Council and should hear in early June. There are two designs they're looking at.

Daralyn Davidson suggested a "Go Fund Me" page for people to contribute to the project to ensure the arches go back up. She felt many outside people would donate to the project.

- v. Chris Radford announced that the Take-A-Year Off Lottery is a go again, tickets will be out soon. The lotto committee would appreciate everyone taking part in selling the tickets. The same 6 groups will benefit from the proceeds: Russell Regional Multiplex/Russell Pool/George P. Buleziuk Center as well as The Russell Library/Golf Course and Field of Dreams.

10. Adjournment – Jen Seib adjourned the meeting at 7:39 pm

