

Minutes Bemidji Chamber, April 21 2015 Mayflower Building

Present:, Betsie Curb, Colleen Falk, Bob Griggs, Chuck Hildebrant, Dave Kloha, Ashley Johnson, Kirk Malkowski, Bryce Oakes, Mychal Stittsworth, Scott Turn, Kayla Walters, Lindsey Wangberg, Staff: Erin Messer, Lori Paris

Guest; Dave Hengel- Greater Bemidji

Absent; Kristi Anderson, Chris Vacek & Ryan Welle

Chair Turn called meeting to order at 7:47

KM motioned and BO second to approved minutes of March meeting- carried

Falk –financial report – comparing 2014- figures are very close, 2/18% variance. Positive outcome. Member receipts- \$151,431 compared to \$156,252 last year at this time.

No questions from the board

Dave Hengel gave an overview of the new building and its tenants. EXB Solutions, Team Industries engineers (25 to start) and Bemidji State University Community Outreach.

PBC invested \$75K in technology with 1 gig wireless throughout-

Launch Pad – Co-Working space offering casual flexible and fun workspace for entrepreneurs, and professionals an opportunity to co-work, collaborate, network and learn in an innovative, yet fun, environment.

All invited to their open house on May 1

Membership report- new members New- Bemidji's Best Auto, HealthStar First Nations Home Health, & Aflac = all Erin, Rustic Wilderness Ranch- Lori, Dixon Lake Resort-Carol

Drop – Randy Johnson, Relax Health & Tone

Exec Committee report- Turn; EC recommended not to sign congressional letter regarding increase in Passenger Facility Fee- these fees help to fund our airport's improvements. See additional info attached;

Membership dues increase- annual increase discussed and asked Paris to provide draft of dues schedule and impact to budget- comparing to years past.

Paris shared sample draft of schedule with discussion on overall impact- Oakes motioned to approved draft – second by Johnson- with no further discussion – motion was approved.

Member Development-

Ambassadors at 24 with one open seat- three calls in the next two weeks.

YPN Ap mtg had 39 attending for first meeting of new year with 36 members renewing- Messer reported the leadership of YPN has strong members- Jeff Peltier is the new Chair- new leadership member is Shannon Miller.

Special Events;

Winterfest looks to have proceeds of approx. \$7500-\$8000- will payout to Jr. Curling of \$4000 for their role in the event

Dragon Boats- big push for early bird deadline and last few sponsors solicited.

People still don't understand the event will still take place at the Waterfront.

Econ. Development;

Grow MN – Paris reported on the last call made was to Brigid's and invited board members to consider being a part of the Grow Team.

Community Concierge is finding it hard to "sell" the partner program. Discussed idea to proceed in partnership with BSU as a means to promote value and create the awareness and understanding of the Concierge concept to potential business community partners.

Presidents report; Job Fair- 45 booths 1053 jobs represented, Bemidji Business Gives & Awards of Excellence May 28- Bill Howe Charlie Naylor Recipient and Ben Stowe Key note. Seeking volunteers from NTC Nite and the Races and tickets available. City & Sanford meeting on Ap. 29 at the Sanford As a result of the Chamber's survey and some of the responses received, the city felt it was necessary to provide information on the current status of the Sanford Center.- encourage all board to attend. This should not be about a hospitality tax.

No further business Chair Turn adjourned the meeting 9:01AM