

**GREATER OGDENSBURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
MINUTES
April 26, 2017
Dobisky Visitor's Center**

Call Meeting to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Sean McNamara at 12:10 p.m. A quorum was present.

Members present: Alex Augsbury, Kathy Bogart, Kim Demers, Lee Jones, Melissa Lalonde, Kevin McDonough, Sean McNamara, R. O'Donnell, Chris Pitcher, Betsy Porter, Sarah Purdy, John Rishe, Michael Thayer, Derek VanHouse and John Wade.

Members excused: Michele Catlin, Craig Chevalier, Amy Hartford, Steve Hawes, Wayne Izzo and Judy Ryan.

Members absent: Julia Stevenson, Marcia LeMay and Rhonda Roethel

Introduction of Guests: Susan Duffy, Off the Hook B & B and Doug Tulloch and Darcy Lalonde from Thousand Island Poker Run were welcomed by President McNamara.

Doug Tulloch from the Thousand Island Poker Run discussed their event scheduled for Saturday, July 15th -- proceeds to benefit the Alex Bay's River Hospital Wellness Program that focuses on active duty military and veterans who have PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injuries. They will be in Ogdensburg about 2 pm – they are asking us to help promote it and to provide visitor information to the boaters. John Wade expressed concern that this is the same weekend as Founder's Day Reenactment which includes a water battle. Laura will contact Barb O'Keefe, Fort LaPresentation Committee to keep her informed about the poker run and the possible impact on the reenactment. Betsy Porter also mentioned that it is the same weekend that the Dragon Boat Races are being held in Waddington.

Approval of the February 22, 2017 meeting minutes: A motion was made by Kevin McDonough to accept the minutes; seconded by Lee Jones; motion carried.

President's Report & Correspondence:

- Thank you card – Wade Family
- St. Lawrence County Chamber Newsletter/Business if the Spotlight invitation
- Price Chopper letter – not renewing dues
- St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corp – Annual Report
- St. Lawrence County Tourism Awards – May 25th in Massena

Treasurer's Report: Laura Pearson reviewed the February 2017 financials which was presented at the March Board Meeting and tabled due to a lack of quorum. February income \$7190.94; expenses \$6,752.31 leaving a net profit of \$438.31 for the month. The Year to date income \$20,286.58 and expenses \$13,767.33 leaving a net profit for YTD of \$6,519.25. A motion was made to accept the February Financial Report by Kim Demers; seconded by Melissa Lalonde; motion carried.

Alex Augsbury reviewed the March 2017 financial report. Current month income \$11, 824.76 and expenses \$10,008.49 – with a net income of \$1,816.27 for the month. The YTD Income is \$32,111.34 minus expenses leaves us with a net YTD profit of \$8,335.52. A motion was made to accept the March Financial Report by Kim Demers; seconded by Mike Thayer; motion carried.

Executive Director's Report:

Student of the Month – next presentation is scheduled for Thursday, May 4th – 9 am at OFA and 9:30 at BOCES.

Polar Bear Plunge – we have a Net Profit of \$3,086.49 – we budgeted \$2,600 for our profit so we are ahead by \$486.49. Laura has cut the check for OVRS but hasn't confirmed the photo/presentation yet with Ken Gardner. Selling the hot tub – on-line discussion to send it out to bid – Shannon Demers offered us \$125. Laura did research on average depreciation – 20% per year – we purchased hot tub in 2015 for \$405.92 – if it depreciates at a rate of 20% per year – it is currently worth about \$207.83. How do we want to request bids – eblast – Facebook – newspapers? Sean recommended that we bring the hot tub to the next event and sell raffle tickets. John Wade made a motion to sell raffle tickets to the hot tub at Wine, Beer and Food Festival; R. O'Donnell seconded the motion; motion carried/ (1) opposed vote.

American Red Cross Blood Drive – Our next drive is scheduled for Friday, April 28th from 11 am to 4 pm at the Dobisky Visitor's Center.

Facebook – Please visit the Chamber Facebook page and “like” & “share” it with your family and friends.

Expo – the winner of the ornament vote is United Helpers Orphanage – we have already had calls from people interested in purchasing this ornament.

Ottawa Travel & Tourism Show – Laura attended on Saturday, March 25th with Brooke Rouse, John Morrison and Barb O'Keefe. It was a busy show and we all promoted Ogdensburg and St. Lawrence County events.

Alex Bay Brochure Swap – is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17th from 11 am to 1 pm – the same day as our Board Meeting – Laura will see if Barb O'Keefe can represent the Chamber, too.

Akwesasne Mohawk Casino Resort – is holding a Hospitality Industry Party on Thursday, June 15th from 4:30-7:30 pm for a networking opportunity with the hospitality industry in the area. Laura would like to attend and take Friday, June 16th as her comp day for Car-B-Que. AMCR is offering the attendees a special room rate of \$59, of course, Laura will pay for her own room. Taking a comp day on Friday means closing the office for the day because Kim works M-Thurs from 9 am to 2 pm. Laura believes that Kim has already made plans for the day but she will see if she can work. Kim Demers feels that we should close the office for the day.

Committee Reports:

WBFF – John Wade and Betsy Porter thanked Laura for all her hard work putting the WBFF together. We have over (30) vendors to date. Betsy Porter expressed concern about the Chief of Police’s mandate to obtain driver’s licenses for the vendors and their workers. This requirement puts extra work on the Chamber and vendors and limits our ability to invite vendors at the last minute. Kim Demers reported that the driver’s license requirement was a large part of the discontinuance of the Sportsman Show – a majority of those vendors did not want to submit their copies of their driver’s licenses which limited our vendors for the show. The Board would like to have Laura schedule a meeting with the Chief of Police, Kathy Bouchard, Sarah Purdy and Sean McNamara to see if we can find a compromise to the situation.

Car-B-Que -- Lee reported that things are moving along – the committee has met and worked on logistics and advertising. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 18th at 8 am at Phillips Diner.

Marketing Committee – met on Thursday, March 23rd at 3:30 pm in the OBPA Board Room. We discussed the Travel Guide, Business of the Quarter and the Ogdensburg welcome signs at the City entrances. Blevins Brothers was the recipient of the Business of the Quarter award for the first quarter. John Rische reported that the Marketing Committee was interested in publishing the travel guide for the spring of 2018 – they will bring their recommendation to the board for discussion and a vote.

Old Business:

New Business:

- **Resignation Letter – Shelly Odendahl** – President McNamara read the resignation letter from Shelly Odendahl – he thanked her for her service to the Chamber. A motion was made by Kim Demers to accept her resignation; seconded by Chris Pitcher; motion carried.
- **Next on ballot – Susan Duffy** – President McNamara asked for a motion to accept Susan Duffy from Off the Hook B & B as the next person on the ballot. A motion was made by Betsy Porter to accept Susan Duffy; seconded by John Wade; motion carried.

Roundtable:

50/50 Raffle: Sean McNamara won the 50/50 of \$5.00 and donated it back to the Chamber.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:00 was made by Betsy Porter and seconded by Kim Demers and carried by all.

NEXT MEETING
Wednesday, May 17, 2017
DOBISKY VISITOR’S CENTER