

**Claresholm Chamber of Commerce Meeting**  
Minutes – Tuesday, March 16, 2010  
Claresholm Golf Club

Meeting called to order by Chamber President, Russell Sawatzky

Adopted minutes from Feb meeting – motion by Tony Walker and seconded by Linda Petryshen.

Approval of agenda with one addition: New Business: The chamber page in the Local Press

Bernie Feodoroff moved agenda be accepted & Dave Moore seconded. Carried

**Treasurer's report:** by Sue Gour, Treasurer: see printout – with one correction on the 2<sup>nd</sup> pg –67 memberships paid to date, not 70. The Alberta Chamber membership fee was \$150 in 2009. There are 47 businesses who were members last year who have not renewed this year. Sue & Roxanne Thompson will contact these non-renewing members from 2009. A small float error was discovered and will be fixed. Sue does not have any record of a budget for 2010 but there may be more information coming when the 2009 account records are returned by the accountant. Sue should have them for next meeting, so more detail will be available. In summary, there is money in the bank, about \$20,332. Don Leonard moved this report be accepted, 2<sup>nd</sup>ed by Carmelle Steele. Carried

**Trade Fair report:** Don Leonard: No more bills have come in, so a final report will be available at the next meeting.

**Memberships:** Roxanne Thompson: see treasurer's report above for membership renewal follow up.

**Mexican Fiesta:** Report by Roxanne: The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting was held last week with 10 people on the committee. The event is scheduled for Fri June 25<sup>th</sup>, the day before grad. The same format will be used as last year with some added features. \*More volunteers are needed. Music: no band, a sound system will save money. Taco in a bag. The beer garden will be bigger & better. A new liquor license will allow children inside. 2 tents – 1 for beer garden, 1 for food. El Molino to be asked for a donation of chips/salsa again. Children's activities will be organized by the "Pharmasave girls". Alternate location in case of incimate weather – arena. There will also be salsa lessons, a 50/50 draw, & a jalapeno eating contest. Churros? Sounds great! Russell congratulated this committee for all their work in the past and a great first organization meeting.

**Town report:** Dave Moore– streets are being swept and cleaned. The Town of Claresholm's 2010 capital budget recently passed. South Sanitary extension – moving dirt & laying pipe – funded by Federal, Provincial & Municipal gov'ts-great project for the town. Derochie Dr is to be paved by the town & developer together. 8<sup>th</sup> St sidewalk will be extended from 520 south to Westlyn Spur. Cottonwood area storm drainage improvement will be funded by the town which will also correct the drainage issues in the mobile homes nearby. 8<sup>th</sup> St will be corded & paved. Infrastructure improvements planned for 2010.

**MD Report:** – Glenn absent – no report

**Fundraising:** There is not an aggressive plan for this year, just to support hanging basket program.

**Hanging Basket Program** – baskets have been ordered. \$40/basket. 30 in total - \$1200. Roxanne reports a youth group has stepped forward to do the watering.

**Citizen of the Year:** April 21: presentation of Citizen of the Year & Jr Citizen of the Year awards. The Chamber has already committed to a \$500 contribution. 320 people attended last year. Organization displays can be set up by local businesses. K-Brand catering will be providing the food. There is a web link if further info is needed. There will be an acapella group from Calgary, AB. Songs from 50's to present. Tickets on sale for \$5 each. The Town also made a \$1000 donation.

**New Business:**

**1. Purchase of tables/chairs**– Russell suggests that the Chamber purchase their own tables and chairs as we ran out of tables last year for the Mexican Fiesta. 10 new tables be purchased @ \$45 each. \$25 for chairs. Roxanne reports that the United Church ( Ken Lewis-contact) has 12 wood/metal tables – 5 tables at Mackin Hall for sale as well as about 75 wooden chairs and 150 metal chairs. The Chamber is welcome to use them. Russell suggested that the Fiesta committee could check out the condition of the tables & chairs and a decision could be made at the next meeting: the Chamber could use them or buy some of these items.

**2. E-mail Calendar:** Russell reports that he and Doug Bowman hope to have an e-mail calendar prepared for next meeting

**3. Chamber page in the local press** – A full page ad is currently run by the Local Press 1x per month devoted to the Chamber with businesses subsidizing the cost of this page. Russell suggested the Chamber pay for the ad (\$360), with supporting businesses paying \$20 each. Don Leonard disagrees and feels that the individual businesses should pay for the ad. Roxanne suggests the Chamber paying ½ and businesses pay \$10. Businesses currently committ to 6 months or a reduced 12 month rate. 18 sponsors are needed to “fill the space”. After discussing the alternatives, there will be no change in the way this is being done.

**4. May Conference** – Russell is registered to attend May 13, 14 & 15 in Lethbridge. If anyone else is interested, please contact Russell at 625-4227.

**5. Communities in Bloom:** Arnold McAulay describes this organization as a program that benefits the overall community. The main players are the local gov't, the Town of Claresholm, businesses, groups & citizens. Litter is a problem. An education campaign is needed and communities in bloom and \_\_\_ will be doing some blitzes. Campaign of information was presented for “don't be a litterbug” and following this program is suggested. Also volunteers could support the clean-up efforts. Posters could be made up and delivered to local businesses, especially fast food outlets, and schools, etc. Advertising in chamber section could also support these efforts.

Rosemary Wishart: at the last Chamber mtg there was discussion re: anti-littering campaign. Doug Bowman asked about the “Pitch in Canada” program. Rosemary has registered our town in this program. There are pages of reference material on their internet site. Earth day- April 22<sup>nd</sup> – often a “pitch in week” is held in conjunction with this, but Rosemary suggests maybe May would be better. Another example: a 20 minute makeover – every citizen could get out for 20 minutes in the clean-up week and pick up garbage/clean up. The pitch-in committee keeps track of how much is picked up - # of bags, and reports this at the end of the campaign. Lethbridge has been successful with this program.

This program would be “pitched” to the schools, community, businesses, etc. Fast food locations are a major source of litter problems.

Communities in Bloom also has the following projects planned: refurbishing signs, including paint touch up & landscaping at the bases, change in lighting. They also look after planters downtown in conjunction with garden club. Youth are involved this year. Businesses & private recognition awards will be given at the end of the year to recognize local efforts.

Russell: Motion to support this program: Arnold made motion on behalf of Michelle ay, and 2nded by Sue Gour. Carried

Don: Chamber page is an ideal venue to start our support.

Russell: What would the cost of posters be? Roxanne to provide a price for 100 color posters and 500 or less decals to Communities in Bloom.

Motion: find out the cost and allocate a budget at next mtg

**6. Correspondence:** The Kinettes want to build a park on the east side Patterson Park, and hold a fundraiser and kickoff May 8th. Naomi Thompson and Glenna Povey (CIBC) are contacts . This is their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary project. Toboggan hill? Kinsmen & Kinettes are both involved

Next month the golf course will be open, so the mtg will be held in the Kinsmen room

Linda Petryshen: – motion to adjourn – 2nded by Don Leonard.