

Claresholm & District Chamber of Commerce  
Minutes of Meeting - May 18/10

Meeting called to order: Russell Sawatzky, President

Additions: Letter from Kathy Grant added to new business

Motion to approve minutes: Linda Petryshen, seconded by Tony Walker

No additions or corrections to April minutes: passed

Calendar: June 25 - Mexican Fiesta – see below

-one more Chamber meeting June 15, 2010, then none until Sep

Memberships/Financial Reports: Sue Gour: Sue is following up on unpaid memberships and soliciting new memberships. The flower pot program has received more donations since the attached report was printed. Donations are still needed for this program. We have 104 memberships to date this year.

Mexican Fiesta: Roxanne Thompson: Help is needed for security in the beer garden. Food/servers/bartending has been taken care of. Please contact Russell @ 625-4227 if you would like to help out. Don Leonard reports that the liquor commission mailed the liquor license April 15th to Box 1072, which is the wrong box #. Don will follow up to get another copy mailed.

John McLean was contacted by Russell to help with set up and teardown. Children will be allowed in the beer garden this year as the proper license has been obtained.

There will be a jalapeno eating contest: Russell & his wife, Jay will head this up. It will be held around 8:00 pm, ages over 18 only.

Town report: Dave Moore not in attendance. Don Leonard reported that the tax assessment meeting was 2 weeks ago. Taxes will increase somewhat. Assessments on commercial properties have increased dramatically, however the mill rate will be reduced to compensate so business owners are not drastically affected. The sewer project is going well with the good weather. This project should reduce flooding/sewer backups in town and give the town the

potential to accommodate new subdivisions in the future. The water treatment plant is scheduled to be done around the end of Aug.

MD Report: Glen Alm – all 4 parks will be open Friday on a first come first serve basis except the group camp at Pine Coulee. Campers can call MD office or reserve sites on the website. Pine Coulee is the only park that offers hook-ups.

Hanging Baskets will be going up the 1st or 2nd week of June. We are still looking for someone to take care of the watering and maintenance of the pots.

New Business:

The Ringrose Park is completely paid off!

Chamber shopping bags: Russell:

Wes Wiebe provided a sample bag at meeting – polyester only  
Launa from Ranchland Embroidery is checking on the availability of a 50/50 cotton polyester bag. Pricing will be approximately \$4000 for 1500 bags. If the town wishes to participate, this could include imprinting on both sides--the town logo on one side and “Claresholm Chamber” on other side. Another idea is to sell advertising space - 10 on one side. Bags will be offered for free. They could be distributed at the locations that purchased advertising.

Alberta Chambers of Commerce Conference report: Russell attended this past weekend. Lethbridge provided great hosting. Thurs reception included political leaders @ the Galt Museum. Fri - educational information-Perrin Beatty was the keynote speaker. He is the head of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and spoke about energy policy for Alberta/Canada and the world. He was a cabinet minister with the Mulroney govt. Sat - policy work. The Alberta Chambers of Commerce is pro-active on behalf of businesses. Good debate and information, excellent presentations. Next year the conference will be in St. Albert. Russell recommends someone attend next year, at least the Sat session.

Tony Walker: Were there any major policy changes? No, policy initiatives last 3 years. The ACC is concerned about energy/policies. They are trying to direct gov't to show Alberta in a positive light.

Russell remarked that many Chambers around the province are actively engaged in writing policy for the Alberta Chambers of Commerce. This was an enlightening part of the conference for Russell and this suggested to him that our chamber could also be more involved in this type of activity.

Question: Were there any executive changes on the ACC board?  
Russell: Yes the members make a 6 yr commitment with regular rotation of duties.

If a summary of the conference is provided Russell will make it available to any interested Chamber members.

Communities in Bloom: Arnold McAulay reports the May 1st Pitch-In clean-up project was a success with 30 people attending. 33 bags of garbage were collected. Various community members continued with the program individually for a total of about 40 bags.

The beautification program continues with an emphasis on the Welcome to Claresholm sign. The downtown core is where flowering plants will be planted. New planters will be installed in the downtown parking area this year.

Awards to businesses will be given again this year in the fall. The committee would like to also recognize citizens' yards. Service club support is appreciated.

Senior Pro Rodeo: A letter was received/read from Kathy Grant requesting continued support in hosting this in the fall: \$1000 donation requested. Motion to contribute \$1000 by Wilf Gour, 2nd by Bernie Feodoroff. Passed.

Meeting adjourned

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> – noon – Claresholm Golf Club