

Claresholm & District Chamber of Commerce Society Minutes of the October 19, 2010 Regular Meeting

Call meeting to order: Russell Sawatzky, President
Additions to Agenda: Arnold MacCaulay - Communities in Bloom
and Rae Trimble - Claresholm Museum

Approval of agenda: Motion by Glenn Alm

Approval of September Minutes: Motion by Val Umscheid

Attendance: 15

Calendar: No items to discuss

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Memberships: Sue Gour, treasurer, reports we now have 118

Financial Report: Sue reports paying a bill of \$976 from the Town of Claresholm for watering of the hanging baskets, so this project lost \$74.95 in 2010.

\$8465 revenue from memberships

Trade Fair account has a balance of \$3717.07

Beautification account has a balance of \$2788.14

Total funds on deposit: \$15,848.61

Rosemary Wishart asked what the beautification account was and Sue advised that this account represents money raised for the downtown Ringrose park. Roxanne suggested that this \$ could be used for downtown murals.

Bernie Feodoroff motioned that the treasurer's report be accepted.

Sue Gour: Alberta Community Spirit program info was received by Sue. This is a government program created to provide funding (lottery) to increase charitable donations. Applications for 2011 must be submitted by Dec 31/10. This program may be for charitable organizations - Sue to share with appropriate organizations. If you are interested in more info, please contact Sue directly.

Town Report: The chamber assumes that a new town rep will be named.

MD Report: Glen Alm reports that parks all closed now for the season. Both of the Fort Macleod incumbents were re-elected. The new windmill farm near Fort Macleod will be producing wind power as of Oct 31/10. No new news on the police college. Harvest is proceeding, possibly done in another week.

Correspondence: Russell

South Grow has an award for excellence in business & government. Info received by mail - conference Jan 20/11. Please let Russell know if you have anyone in mind to nominate, he has the nomination forms and procedures. Frontier Western Shop won last year.

Trade Fair – Russell received a request to be listed in the Alberta Trade Fair directory. Russell is listed as the contact.

Video: MD of Willow Creek-“Code of the West” was received by the Chamber - Glen Alm explained this was a community sustainability project to promote the municipality and to let people know that residents also have responsibilities. Free copies can be picked up at the MD office. Good resource for real estate agents, etc.

Russell received an offer from the Kinettes: they plan to be more supportive in 2011 to get projects done in the community and have offered to be available for any assistance in the community.

New Business: Russell

Fair Days: The Business display contest (Scarecrow contest this year) is sponsored by the Fair Days Committee. Does the Chamber wish to provide the same prize as in the past, a free Chamber membership for the next year? This will be a 2 year commitment as the brochures are printed every 2 years. Roxanne Thompsom moved this motion be accepted and Arnold MacAulay seconded the motion. Vote: passed. We will let Sonja Carlson, the Fair Board contact person know of this decision by e-mail.

Russell mentioned that Ken Baker cleaning up his building is a great example of civic pride.

Communities in Bloom: Report by Arnold MacAulay - presentations were to be made last month to businesses who won the local awards this year for beautification. Some recipients and presentors were unable to attend last month's so presentations were made at the local businesses – winners will be announced in the local press. Pharmasave won the commercial category. The industrial winner was The Southern Alberta REA. The highway corridor winner was A & W. This program encourages civic pride and attractiveness of businesses.

Claresholm Museum: Rae Trimble: Thanks to the Chamber for the support that allows the museum to stay open until Thanksgiving. Visitor info is located in the main building of the museum . It is open 23 wks/yr and there have been over 6000 visitors in each of the past 2 years. Excellent staff-- Tove Mifflin and Bob

Lasalle. The museum has now received official designation as a "Travel Information" location. To retain this designation staff must attend an in-service training each year. There is an internet site which allows businesses to put info on the site at no cost - Bob LaSalle found this and can provide info. The expanded museum site is becoming more and more popular. If each visitor, for example, spent \$10 in Claresholm, that would be \$62,000 in revenue for local businesses - maybe more! Local history is displayed. There will be a special presentation to honour the men of Claresholm who gave their lives in World War 2 at the Senior's Drop-In Centre tomorrow, Oct. 20 at 7:30 pm. There were 16 local service men who gave their lives and their names are inscribed on the local Cenotaph.

Val Kjarsgaard reported that she has listed her B & B on this above free website and has had very positive results. The site is sponsored by Travel Alberta.

Russell reminds chamber members that the town proposed an increase in fees for garbage collection for both residents and commercial businesses. This might be an issue members want to take an interest in.

Rosemary Wishart presented some ideas on murals.

Linda Petryshen moved the meeting be adjourned.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 16, 2010.

Location: to be announced, it will NOT be at the Golf Course