

**CLARESHOLM & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**Meeting Minutes – Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010**

Meeting called to order by President, Russell Sawatzky

Additions to Agenda: none

Approval of agenda: Linda Petryshyn

Additions/correction to June minutes: none

Approval: Roxanne Thompson

Calendar:

Oct 18/10 – no municipal elections mayor and counsellors elected by acclamation. Election for school board trustees only

Roxanne: should the Chamber offer a candidates' forum? – 4 candidates for 2 positions in the school division.

Russell suggested offering a forum in about 2 weeks' time

Roxanne moved that the Chamber hold a forum for the school division elections in 2 wks, 2nded by Wilf Gour.

Need refreshments & to choose a place & time

Wilf, Roxanne & Russell will help organize this event

Vote: passed unanimously

Treasurer's Report: Sue Gour

- 114 current memberships
- Funds available as of Sep 20: \$16,113.
- Mexican Fiesta: profit \$2156
- Trade Fair profit \$6425
- Hanging Baskets: \$901, Memberships \$8145

Town Report: Dave Moore

- Both the Town of Claresholm & MD positions filled by acclamation
- Sidewalks & curbs replaced around town this summer
- 8<sup>th</sup> street upgrade is nearing completion
- Area near Cottonwoods is getting a drainage update & new sidewalks
- The campground closed for the winter. A new caretaker will be needed in the spring
- Dave commended the Chamber for flower pot program and the Claresholm Garden Club flower beds also looked great this summer

Mexican Fiesta: Roxanne Thompson

Roxanne suggested a new location: Amundsen Park. Chamber members discussed the following suggestions for future: more family activities, more

activities for children. Profits increased over last year. Taco in a bag was very successful. Maybe piñatas, races for children. Thanks to the Kinsmen for the set up and tear down of tents and John McLean for picking up and set-up & teardown of chairs & tables. John generously donated his time for this service.

New Project: Roxanne suggests a Gazebo in Amundsen Park as a new project for the Chamber in future.

Hanging Baskets: Roxanne: the weather cooperated this year. Baskets not watered on the weekends and if it had been drier there would have been a problem. Ongoing problem of who would water on weekends for next year. Sue suggested a thank you be put in the paper for the sponsors. Sue volunteered to put this thank you in the paper. Marilyn Curry suggested Laura should receive special recognition for a job well done. Donations for the hanging baskets are down this year.

Items from Previous Minutes: Russell

Recruit still needed for the Physician Recruitment Committee as advised by Michelle Day. Please contact Michelle if you are interested.

The Chamber needs a Vice-President. Please contact Russell if you are interested.

MAIL: Russell

Scarecrow Contest: sponsored by Chamber. There was some confusion over prizes. The Chamber's prize is a free Chamber Membership for 2011. Sue will give The Claresholm IDA, the winners, a certificate. Any other questions about prizes should be directed to Sonja Carlson through the Fair Board.

A request was forwarded from Kris Holbeck from the Town of Claresholm for a financial report re: a government grant. This will be addressed by Sue.

Request for the 2011 Trade Show directory received. Russell will check with Don Leonard for the information and will confirm our participation. The 2011 Trade fair will be February 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

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Thanks from Sr Pro Rodeo – free passes are available if anyone is interested, contact Russell. – Oct 14, 15, 16 & 17<sup>th</sup>.

Entertainment brochure received.

Segmentation, Targeting & Positioning Workshop for tourism operators - Oct 21<sup>st</sup> – no charge, sponsored by Travel AB in Pincher Creek. See Russell for more details

Admin fees re: Group Plan \$285.23/month income – 14 businesses participate

Alberta Labour market review

First Data – offering Chamber Members their services for debit & credit card machines

The Claresholm Chamber is a member of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce – more access to more information, no additional cost to join.

Marilyn: Bragg Creek displays winter foliage in their hanging baskets. Would either Communities in Bloom or the Garden Club help with this? Marilyn to get more information/pictures and e-mail this to Nancy to circulate.

AB Southwest AGM report – Waterton was attended by Russell – a contact there gave Russell booklets that outline Federal grant money available to rural Canadians. See Russell for copies. Russell recommends the Chamber continue to participate in this conference. Marketing/Development funds are available– Gazebo project funds?

Wilf: should we invite a rep from the Fair Board to attend Chamber meetings? Since they are not Chamber members we would not invite them to regular meetings, but they could be invited next spring when the fair is closer.

Upcoming Events: Chamber AGM in January

Russell wants all members to share their suggestions of how the Chamber can better serve the local businesses. Please bring your ideas & suggestions to the next meeting!

Meeting adjourned: Damon Larkin

Attendance: 17