

Claresholm Chamber of Commerce Society
Meeting Minutes
APRIL 19, 2011

Meeting location: Claresholm Golf Course
Attendance: 20

Russell Sawatzky, Roxanne Thompson, Don Leonard, Linda Petryshen, Wilf Gour, Tony Walker, Lynda Baxter, Karen Lomas, John Vanderfluit, Chris Parker, Val Umscheid, Kit Russell, Tim Thompson, Keith Thompson, Betty Fieguth, Iqbal Nurmohamed, Rob Vogt, Terry Daniel, Jackie Chalmers, Nancy McCance

Call meeting to order: Russell Sawatzky, President
Additions to Agenda: Roxanne: Mural Competition
Approval of Agenda: moved by Linda Petryshen

Additions or corrections to March minutes: Tony made a motion to accept the minutes as recorded.

Committee Reports:

Financial Report: Russell, as Sue is absent.

General Account:	\$12,262.54
Trade Fair account:	\$11,164.09
Beautification account:	\$ 2788.84
Total on deposit:	\$26,215.27

Memberships paid to date: 81: \$5905.00

Web memberships: 8 = \$400 revenue. Profit, unaudited from 2011 Trade Fair: \$7444.73

Memberships: Roxanne Thompson: 81 so far, Roxanne will follow up for businesses who have not renewed.

Citizen of the Year: Roxanne reported that Emily Boyle is the Jr Citizen of the Year for 2011 and Citizen of the Year is Shirley Isaacson. This was a successful event.

Mexican Fiesta: Don Leonard advises that a request has been sent to the Town of Claresholm and RCMP to use the downtown lot. Also Don will submit an

application to the AGLC.

Roxanne reports that she has contacted the "Fusion Youth" organization to provide more children's activities for this year.

Town Report: Betty Fieguth: Town Council pulled out of Alberta Southgrow. Sewer lines along are being replaced on 50th and the traffic lights won't work during this period. Alberta Transportation has not replied to the town's request for temporary light during the construction period.

Town council will fund the animal shelter until grant money is approved and received.

The Town met with the MD & Alberta Health services – all are in agreement to keep ambulance service. It sounds like local citizens will be used to provide this service, but no final decisions have yet been made. Deadline: July.

Russell: The Town of Claresholm pulled out of Southgrow because of reduced participants and anticipated cost increases. The Town of Claresholm is still a member of Alberta Southwest – more tourist oriented. Local Chamber members, e.g. Lucasia Ranch, supports Alberta Southwest.

MD Report: Glen was not in attendance

New Business:

Mural: east side of Al's Pets & Plants/Ringrose Park. The Chamber received a submission from Pamela Copeland, Judy Dahl and Alice Saltiel. Estimated cost: \$14,054.00. Roxanne suggested the history of the Claresholm Airport might be incorporated. Kerry Hart passed on an idea by e-mail to Russell that was a 3 dimensional type of image, but it was submitted after the April 15, 2011 deadline. Board members agreed that it is an excellent presentation and a reasonable estimate. *Please contact Russell if you wish to see the proposal.

Russell: we are still open to more submissions/ideas, only 1 submission so far, as above. However, the board members agree that if the deadline presented was April 15, 2011, no more submissions would be accepted.

Mural committee: Jackie & Russell so far. Lynda Baxter volunteered to be on this committee. Funding will be needed to complete this project.

Don Leonard put forward a motion to confirm that the committee should move

forward by finalizing the price for this project. Seconded by Wilf Gour. Passed.

Fair Days: The Town of Claresholm sent a letter to the Chamber asking if they will take over the organization of Fair Days. They want the Chamber to take over the running of the parade which has a budget of \$10,000 which will be provided. Russell suggested that with service club involvement this could be an opportunity to promote our businesses? Floats are mostly business people advertising their businesses. Further discussion and volunteers would be needed. This would also include the Amundsen Park activities. Don Leonard suggests it is already too late for this to be taken over for 2011. This would be better planned for 2012.

Wi Fi Services: Russell reports that the Chamber wants to have wifi provided in town along with the Economic Development committee within the town limits. The Museum would like to be able to offer wifi service to tourists. A presentation was made to Russell by Maggie Belisle of Bell Communications. The device is cell network activated, & does not require a computer. The device comes with a SIM card, like a phone and is attached to a phone number. Transmits to 50 metres, and can enable up to 15 devices to connect at a time. Plug 'n play, portable. The device could be at the Museum from April to Oct, then move to arena for hockey season, then to the community centre for the Trade Fair. Each unit is \$200-\$400. The monthly cost is \$35 per device. Russell asked for a test run at the museum from the provider.

Vulcan runs theirs off a computer, subscribe to an ISP, and the signal is distributed with antennae. Their system is less costly at around \$50/month.

Slow Food: Jackie Chalmers: A Slow Food Southern Alberta Convivium has now been established. The purpose, as stated in last month's minutes is to showcase local producers and "culinary tourism". Interested members can Google "slowfood.com" for more information, check out the Calgary chapter on-line or contact Jackie at "jackie_chalmers@hotmail.com" or the Chamber if you are interested in more information.

Russell asked Jackie to reschedule the organization meeting that was planned in March. Please watch for further e-mails on this project. Thanks for Rob Vogt for the great feature in the Local Press.

Committee Volunteers: Russell will contact directors to ask directors to accept committee assignments. *After the meeting Iqbal Nurmohamed volunteered to help with the Claresholm Fair project.

Chamber Social: Russell suggests this would be an opportunity for members to get together and network their businesses and meet in a non-agenda atmosphere. Russell will check with the Golf Course to see what is available. A tentative date of Wed May 18th was chosen. Don suggested starting at 5:00 or 5:30 pm.

Ringrose Park Sign: Roxanne received a quote for metal signage at the entrance to Ringrose Park from Claresholm Welding including lettering front & back. The sign will be streetside & will include hooks for flower pots. \$7800 flat. Motion to go ahead: Roxanne. Seconded by Don Leonard. Vote: passed

Moved to adjourn: Russell

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 17th, 2011 at noon at the Claresholm Golf Course Restaurant - Mac's Clubhouse Diner