

Claresholm & District Chamber of Commerce Society
February 15, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Attendance: 16

Meeting held at Douro's

Call meeting to order: Russell Sawatzky, President

Additions to Agenda: none

Approval of Agenda: motion by Linda Petryshen

Additions or corrections to Dec minutes: none

Approval of Dec minutes: motion by Val Umscheid

Guest Speaker: John Grove, AltaLink-Southern Alberta Transmission presentation concerning their role distributing electricity. New project to bring wind power from Southern Alberta to the grid. Open house: Claresholm: Wed March 2 – 4:00-8:00 pm at the Community Centre. For more information contact Russell or Nancy.

Calendar:

April 15 – Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

June – Flower pots hung

Fri June 24– Mexican Fiesta

Fair Days – August 13 & 14 – float-yes, include Citizen of the Year

2012 Trade Fair – February 3 & 4

Committee Reports

Memberships: Roxanne Thompson-have been sent out, 13 memberships so far. Kaleidoscope Travel not yet receiving e-mails- Nancy will follow up to get new e-mail address

Mexican Fiesta: date established-above

Financial: Sue Gour: Financial Report presented at AGM: Dec 31/10 balance: \$24,115.42

Town Report: none

MD Report: none

Trade Fair: Don Leonard: successful event, 1452 people attended, 68 booths, 14 on a waiting list. Sponsors: Dairy Queen and Graham Auctions. 934 attended from the town, one exhibitor from Toronto, also BC. Only 1 not returning. Feedback was that exhibitors missed having hamburgers & hot dogs (last year comments stated

participants wanted more healthy food). Sole exhibitors asked for “relief” to be provided. Exhibitors happy with the venue. Exhibitors expressed a desire for internet access. Motion by Don that a letter to be sent to the community centre board asking about this and offering to help establish internet connection. Wilf Gour seconded this motion. All in favour, carried. Sue suggested Chamber could sponsor this upgrade. \$20,000-gross, around \$6000-7000 net revenue. Greater demand for booths this year. Help needed with tear-down-paid hourly. Marilyn Curry suggested Grad Society and Football teams looking for fund raising opportunities could be approached in future.

*Thank you to everyone who worked on this successful event!

Citizen & Jr Citizen of the Year Awards-nominations must be submitted in writing to Roxanne at the Local Press.

New Business

Russell reported that the Chamber by-laws state that the President can serve for 2 years only. A motion is needed to amend by-law as Russell is in his 3rd year as President. Marilyn made motion to amend by-law. Damon 2nded. Don: amended this motion to make an exception to the by law to allow Russell to serve another year instead of amending the by-law. Seconded by Damon Larkin. (1st motion was defeated) Passed as amended.

New Directors

Russell suggests that the Chamber's board of directors be updated as some listed directors do not attend or participate any more. The following new directors were nominated by Russell: Marilyn Curry & Roxanne Thompson to stay on Tony Walker, Damon Larkin, Linda Petryshen, Don Leonard and Wilf Gour – will stand as new directors. Russell asks that directors commit to attending 10 meetings per year (none in July & August). Marilyn nominated Val Umscheid, 2nded by Linda Petryshen. Vote: carried – 8 directors.

Change in Meeting Format/frequency

Russell proposes a change in the meeting format-monthly meetings for executive & board only. Motion: to change: 2nded by Val. Wilf asked for clarification: are all members welcome if they have a specific concern.

Meetings open to all members will be held 3x per year plus the AGM. These could possibly be evening/dinner meetings.

Roxanne: the purpose of the Chamber is to help businesses, not just beautification. The Chamber needs to focus more on the business aspect. This new meeting format may encourage more networking, new members and those who do want to commit to monthly meetings, to attend the quarterly meetings. Quarterly meetings could be less formal and encourage more input from members who cannot or do not wish to attend monthly meetings.

Don: members' ability to vote should not be restricted

Roxanne: voting would still be available at the quarterly meetings, but the elected executive makes decisions on a day-to-day basis.

Sue: Chamber members will still be encouraged to participate and attend the general meetings. This format would be more efficient.

Motion: It is proposed that the Claresholm Chamber of Commerce have monthly meetings that include the board (directors) and the executive monthly with 3 general meetings per year plus the AGM.

Possible general meetings could be scheduled in conjunction with Small Business Week, before the summer break, October and the AGM in January of each year.

Wilf: If somebody comes to the meeting, would verbal input still be allowed? Yes, the only restriction is voting or making a motion, but discussion is welcome. Members are always welcome to give feedback and input to board members.

Motion to accept this new meeting format was voted on and carried.

-The Chamber website needs to be updated. Doug Symonds is listed as webpage contact-this will be changed to Russell.

New 2011 projects: suggestions: Gazebo in Amundsen Park; finish Ringrose Park-a gateway entrance and mural on Al's Pets & Plants wall. Gazebo – maybe the Chamber could work with other service

organizations. These possible projects will be discussed further at future meetings.

Correspondence:

-request received from the Claresholm Museum for an increased donation of \$1500 instead of \$1000 to fund a web “hotspot” for travellers to access.

-Citizen of the Year nomination received. Nancy will let nominator know that they need to submit this in writing to Roxanne.

-Fair Board-bi-yearly donation to continue for Fair Board booklet ad.

-\$500 donation to Volunteer Appreciation Dinner to be given again this year. Roxanne to present the awards. She has already ordered the plaques. Roxanne will contact Kristein O'Neil to let her know the details of this project.

Motion to adjourn: Linda Petryshen – 1:20 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 15th, 2011 at Casa Roma, noon - 1:00pm for Executive & Directors