

## **Bragg Creek & Area Chamber of Commerce**

### **April 19, 2017 Board Minutes at 5:30pm**

**PRESENT:** Gail, Louise-Marie, Yvonne, Mark, Marcella, Charlie, Stacia, Bev

**Absent with Regrets:** Suzanne, Heather, Mackenzie

1. Call to Order at 5:31pm
2. **Adoption of Agenda:** Louise-Marie motioned to adopt the Agenda, seconded by Stacie and carried
3. **Adoption of Minutes of March 15:** Gail motioned to adopt the minutes, seconded by Charlie and carried
4. **President's Report:** Suzanne met with Richard Brown of the BCRC to discuss a joint committee to work on signage for the community. Suzanne asked Steve Archer, Yvonne & Elizabeth Hertz to continue working on this and Richard has one or two people from the BCRC interested. Suzanne also asked the BCRC to take over the Art Walk project and have obtained an extension to the end of August 2018. The BCRC will likely agree to take this on. Along with the extension Suzanne obtained permission to submit another funding application prior to this June 2017. Suzanne attended a meeting with Economic Development & Trade Minister Deron Bilous in Cochrane to discuss issues and opportunities affecting the Bragg Creek area. The meeting was followed by a Press Conference where a number of announcements were made and grant cheques were awarded, including a cheque to the 'Greater Bragg Creek Trails Association' for completion of their portion of the Trans Canada Trail. Another interesting Grant recipient was Cochrane Economic Development for Cochrane Bucks. This idea is to promote shopping local. Yvonne, Charlie & Suzanne attended presentations from students at Banded Peak to revitalize the area between the two malls. This is a project of the BCRC. Suzanne will be attending the next meeting of the joint group of smaller chamber in the area on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Suzanne provided input towards the selection of the company to create the new websites.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Marcella will attach the income statement and balance sheet.
6. **New Business:** Charlie is looking into Grants for the Visitor Information Centre(VIC) & has organized a speaker from Workplace Consultants to attend the Chamber June meeting. Stacia would like "Hemmett Upholstery" to present at an upcoming Chamber meeting.
7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
  - 7.1- Membership & Business Liaison:** The Telephone Card will be completed by the end of May.
  - 7.2 - Community Liaison:** Stacia has been contacting various local organizations regarding their meeting dates
  - 7.3 Marketing & Communications:**
    - 7.3.1- Website:** Mark discussed the website submissions and has narrowed down the RFP's to the final two; a decision will be made by the end of April. The new Pole banners are complete and will be going up in the next couple of weeks.

**7.4: Tourism:** Charlie wants to bring Visitor Tourism to Bragg Creek; there are many Grants available for this. Charlie will be meeting with Economic Development in Cochrane to discuss the options available. Charlie would like to see space available in the community centre. There is funding available to hire people and this job would create employment for 3-4 people who could also do work for the Chamber. A business plan needs to be written, hwy signs to be implemented and possibly staff riding bicycles to provide tourists with information. Louise-Marie suggested tabling this until May until a committee is formed. Charlie will Chair this committee and needs volunteers. Stacia volunteered her store as a possible location for the 'information area'.

**7.4.1: Cool Little Towns:** Nothing new to report.

**7.5: Festivals:** Louise-Marie would like to step down from Chairing the 'Spirit of Christmas' event. Volunteers are in place, but a new Chair is required. Bev suggested advertising on the local social media to find someone to Chair this event.

**7.6: Grants** – Marcella discussed the various Grants available. The ***Community and Regional Economic Support (CARES)***. For a project to be eligible under the CARES program, it must create a measurable impact in one of the following areas: 1) Improved local business environment. 2) Increased support for entrepreneurs. 3) Enhanced support for businesses that provide diversification to a community. 4) Increased investment that drives high-value job creation. **Application deadline is May 31, 2017.** The program provides applicants with notification of funding decisions within 90- days. The Rockyview County offers a Grant called, ***Community Benefits Initiatives Grant***. To be eligible the program needs to offer: 1) **Heritage Awareness** – documenting of historical places or events in order to retain the information for future generations that encourage public involvement in heritage preservation and promote knowledge about the County's history. 2) **Volunteer Development** – to improve and develop their capacity in supporting volunteers through leadership development, board governance, succession planning and community events. 3) **Culture & Events** – support various programs & events within the Arts & Performing Arts mediums. 4) **Community Beautification** – enhance the community with landscaping, community pathways, tree planting, decorative lighting, community garden, enhanced signage. Creativity is encouraged. 5) **Cultivating Communities** – for projects/programs that support the development of healthy communities including emergency rescue services, crime prevention programs, animal services and community safety enhancements. Deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup> of every year. Organizations must provide a Project Completion Financial Report on how the Grant funds were used no later than 3 months after completion of the project. **CRTC** establishes funds to attain high-speed internet targets: Marcella will investigate this Grant opportunity.

**7.7: Taste of Bragg** – The BCCA isn't interested in organizing this event. Charlie will Chair this event with a group of volunteers and the proceeds will go in support of various charities. Louise-Marie suggested tabling this topic until the May meeting.

7.8: Art Project – Tabled until May meeting

7.9: Alberta On-line: Tabled until May meeting

8. Meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm

