



Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce
Board Meeting Minutes
August 11th, 2022 – 4:00 PM



CALL TO ORDER: Derek Jones – PRESIDENT

ROLL CALL: Dan McEvoy – Director; Doralee Booth – County Liaison; Molly Ernst – Director; JoEll Abbot – Vice President; Linda Galle-Parent – Treasurer; Sacha Sanguinetti – Event Coordinator; Danielle Gaughen – Executive Director; Dan McEvoy – Director; Mike Price – Visitor.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Mike Price – Volunteer & longtime friend of the Chamber working with the county to get the pet waste cans emptied timely and often. Volunteers by helping with beach garbage & pet waste containers. Also, the little draw bridge in Terrel Creek has been removed, has been working with the county to have that done, and thinks Earl Ball may have helped with that.
- Warren Swensen on the phone Requested the board call him during the meeting.
 - Wants to help us use the Birch Bay Beach Park.
 - “No” bathroom’s at the car show didn’t know about the golf cart shuttle.
 - Signage wasn’t adequate at the event.
 - Something about asking homeless folks to camp out at Birch Bay Beach Park.
 - Was encouraged to talk to Whatcom County Council.

APPROVAL OF JULY MINUTES: Derek Motion – JoEll Second, no discussion. All in favor.

AUGUST MEMBER OF THE MONTH: Banner Bank

SEPTEMBER MEMBER OF THE MONTH: JoEll Abbott x3 Memberships – Showed up at all events to help, worked her butt off, and is always a phone call away when we need something.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

AS OF JULY 31ST

- **BANNER BANK BALANCE: \$24,150.46** **BALANCE PETTY CASH: \$448.36**
 - Sample budget provided to board for 2023 for 2023 LTAC application preparation purposes.
 - Some added expenses due to the move.
 - Will be receiving employee retention tax credit for 2020 & 2021 will come in a few different checks.
 - Mary in Dori’s office put it together for us, and Danielle sent the info to Telgenhoff who does our taxes.
 - **APPROVAL OF JULY FINANCIAL REPORT:** Molly Motion JoEll 2nd, no discussion. All in favor.

EXECUTIVE REPORT – DANELLE GAUGHEN

- **CURRENT LTAC Balance: \$37,458.72**
 - Still waiting on **\$14,447.77** from June & **\$10,227.46** from July.
 - Does not include the additional **\$5,000** Whatcom County granted us for porta-potties.
 - 2023 LTAC application Due August 25th, 2022 – Danielle is working on that process now.
 - Need board confirmation on 2023 salaries – need for Executive Session.
 - Trini gave her notice, and has decided to focus on her health, and will not return.
 - Worked here for a number of years.
 - Board voted to give her **\$300.00** & flowers with a card – Derek Motion, Dan Second.
 - Amy will take a full-time seasonal job this winter.
 - Volunteers through the end of the year? Or try and fill the position.
 - Board said they could commit to a few days/hours through the winter offered suggestions for other people who may want to help as well.
 - Hiring people for only Saturday/Sunday only is difficult – Look for a permanent helper at the beginning of the year.
 - Brittini is helpful for many of the tasks/cleaning etc. that Trini used to do.
 - Board decided to close the Visitor Center for Discover Days and utilize the mobile unit as the Visitor Center that day since we are again short on volunteers for the event – Danielle will forward the phones to her cell phone for that weekend.



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- **VISITOR COUNTS:**
 - Getting back on track with visitor numbers. Do need to check and make sure the numbers of nights – not sure exactly how Trini calculated them in the past – Amy is counting someone who lives here as staying for 30 nights.
- **STATISTICS:** *See Attached Sheet*
- **MEMBERSHIP:**
 - *Total Members:* 147 (Dropped 2 who hadn't paid – Big Bites & Drayton Harbor Home)
 - *Big Bites now a storefront in Bellingham.*
 - *Drayton Harbor Home – Vacation Rental in Blaine – Blaine has some rules & regulations against Vacation Rentals in their neighborhoods.*
 - *New Members:*
 - Dream Maintenance LLC
 - Sea Cadets

EVENTS REPORT – Sacha Sanguinetti

- Sand Sculpture/Rollback Car Show Recap
 - **Saturday Sand Sculpture Competition:**
 - Overall – smooth & went well.
 - Over 33 Entries + possible record number of participants.
 - People are already calling to ask about a date a record for the event.
 - **Sunday:**
 - Vendor Feedback – Not enough people, not enough going on at the Library property.
 - For Discover Days eliminating Beach Cat Brewing as the music location.
 - Public standpoint – all positive feedback, despite a couple issues that have already been addressed.
 - Businesses reported “best day ever”.
 - JoEll said Brit & Tommy want to be a part of it next year.
 - Will bring their own volunteers for parking and registration.
 - Need better parking
 - 2023 Rollback Car Show Location for next year – State Park? American Legion? Behind The Beach may not be available due to who owns the property at that time.
 - Without the Birch Bay Beach Park logistics of our events become a nightmare.
- **Discover Days Update 27th & 28th:**
 - Volunteer sign-ups – Sacha working on getting all the slots filled, table & chair set up, garbage, running the visitor booth & helping in the event trailer.
 - Molly available all day on the 27th.
 - JoEll available both days.
 - Vendor signups - FULL
 - Duck Derby – Need to work on planning exact time.
 - Ducks will probably be running upstream: Molly said Patrick has done it that way before.
- **2023 Event thoughts (dates, modifications etc.)**
 - Kite Fest – Right after school gets out – June 17th & 18th
 - Sand & Rollback – Tide Factor – July 29th & 30th
 - Discover Days – as a longer extended day, perhaps first 6 months of the year – pointed at members with mini events at member businesses.
 - Marketing Campaign rather than a huge festival style event.
 - Discover Businesses & Birch Bay To Do's. Encourages business participation.
 - Doralee noted that the community might have some feedback.
 - *Is doing large events just because they have always been done the best use of staff talent and time.*



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- **\$9,000** received from BBBPRD2 for Sand/Rollback & Discover Birch Bay Days
- WFEA Event Funding Grant – From Arts Council
 - Up to **\$11,000** based on loss.
- Sacha heard about another possible grant from WFEA and is going next week to find out more.

COUNTY LIASON REPORT – DORALEE BOOTH

- Planning tentatively on going to Whatcom County Council Meeting on September 27th.
 - Re-introduction of Birch Bay to Whatcom County Council
 - BBBPRD2 Council members going to talk about California Creek Trail.
- WCLS has submitted a Change of Scope Plan for the Birch Bay Vogt Community Library
 - To modify the original building/house.
 - Change of scope can happen once - \$300,000 over the 2 Million will need to be raised.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- Chamber Luncheon – August 18th, 2022 at Grand Bay – Speaker Emma & Natalie from 7 Elements & Tour of facility.
- Next Board Meeting: September 8th, 2022
- Executive Session – Next Wednesday 17th 4:00 PM to decide on 2023 Salaries & Rent here until the end of 2023.
 - Board voted to stay in our current location at least through 2023 year end.
 - Derek Motion – JoEll Second, no discussion & all in favor.