

**Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday October 8th 5:30pm
Via Zoom**

Vanessa called the meeting to order @ 5:30pm

Roll Call:

Vanessa Bell - President; Billy Brown - Director; Danielle Gaughen - Event Coordinator; Liz Thornton - Executive Director; Doralee Booth - Treasurer; Secretary, Director; Dave Brewin-Director.

Public Comment: NONE

Approve September Minutes

- Billy motioned to approve minutes Dave seconded – No discussion, all were in favor & minutes were adopted.

Finance Report: (Liz)

Banner Bank Balance \$9,502.80

LTAC Balance: \$53,150.34 (Liz just put in for a reimbursement which leaves about \$47,000 left for the year.)

Billy motioned to approve, Vanessa & Doralee seconded – discussion below.

- Doralee and Liz met with Dori and did August's finances. Next week they will meet to do September.
- Movies have done well
 - September movie expenses have not been taken out yet.
 - Pay lain rental of Waterslides
 - Payroll for concessions
 - Licensing fee (\$700)
- Billy asked about \$579 for maintenance
 - Liz said it was Lawn Care for Birch Bay Lawn Care, they were there today and pulled all the weeds. This is the yearly fee.
- Membership is down but was to be expected for this year.
- Billy urged us to stock up on supplies and things we will need in the future.
 - Liz plans to do that for next reimbursement
 - DG needs a work laptop.
 - Mileage reimbursement hasn't been done yet.
 - Reimbursement for Liz's cell phone.

Member of the Month:

October: Granite Construction

November: Windermere – They do a lot for us & for the community.

Executive Report:

LTAC Grant application 2021 – Liz will continue to keep the Board updated.

- Still on hold. Has been assured by Tawny that we have nothing to worry about. They are currently redoing the application and are no longer doing the wayfinding project.

- Liz is confident we will still get our funding, along with Mt. Baker & some to Ski to Sea, maybe Sea Feast & possibly Ferndale.

LTAC Funds left for 2020 - Liz started making a list of what we can spend remaining funds on.

Billy made a motion that the Chamber purchases their own projector & equipment so we can continue our movie nights & use it for other events – Budget of \$7,000. Vanessa seconded it.

ALL WERE IN FAVOR

- Need a projector & a screen (\$3-5K for the 4K resolution)
 - Doralee said that the Heron Center got a great deal from Best Buy when they got their screen, projector & sound system.
 - Dave recommended offering them an in-kind sponsorship for helping us with this.
 - Projector would be used for all events, AGM, Movies etc.
 - **Billy asked Dave to investigate what is the right one, and to make sure we get a good one.**
 - We would need Projector, Transmitter, Screen & Battery powered AM/FM radios to rent.
- Liz will research the reimbursement with budget & county.

Additional County Funding approved & Liz will keep board members updated as she learns more.

- Guy Occhiograso (Bellingham Chamber) met with the County & they had some additional funds. Expenses to help with March to Today. Guy notified Liz know today that each Chamber got approved for extra money.

Comcast Sponsor

- He sponsored our movies x2 (\$400 each)
- Looking forward to working with us again next year & hopefully bringing McDonalds truck

Drive-in Movies Re-Cap:

- Billy noted how great the movies have been and how many comments he has received about how cool it is.
- Liz expects us to be able to make some good money on these events next year.
- Dave was also very impressed with how well we were able to organize and do these.
- Doralee loves how quick the event is packed up and cleaned up.
- Liz decided to cancel the last movie (Ghostbusters) due to low ticket sales, expecting poor weather on Friday, and issues with Grady.
- Discussed Grady's payment for the last movie.
 - Didn't have the screen up, and we had to put it up ourselves & he was having trouble with his projector but didn't communicate the issue until it was almost too late.
 - He was in violation of our contract. But we will pay him a partial fee to insure everyone is happy and we will walk away from it.
 - Going forward we need to be able to just rely on ourselves to have everything running properly.
 - Screen inflated HOURS before, back-up bulbs, back up fan, extra gasoline, generator & adequate properly running equipment.

New/On Going Business

Birch Bay Economic Development

- Doralee – Prior to COVID-19 meeting Dave Willbrecht, Mike Kent, Ted Morris, Billy Brown. Doralee got together with Gina Stark from The Port to start talking about Birch Bay Economic Development. The next stop was to meet with Tyler Schroeder, & work out a budget etc.
- The shoreline restoration project (the Berm) is going to really change Birch Bay!

- Need to find a way to get some businesses to come to Birch Bay (Woods Coffee ?)
 - Maybe at the corner of BB Lynden Rd. & Harborview at the corner of the Waterslides
- Now is the time to try and encourage businesses to come here.
- White Rock is similar to Birch Bay but has been developed in a completely different way.
- Berm Timeline – expected completion April 2021
- Park? No specific timeline but \$1,000,000 was supposed to be reserved by County as LTAC capitol project funds by Jack Louws to build bathrooms. Hopefully those funds will also be granted to Birch Bay Beach Park by Satpal.
- Empty businesses under the resorts.
 - Need year-round businesses.
- BBCC should put together a development plan to use for presentations to the Port, businesses etc.
 - Doralee has the plan that the Port did for us to send to Dave.
- Billy says, this is a topic we could spend hours on, but until more of our business owners get on board, we will not be able to go too far.
- The development of Birch Bay is 10 – 15 years down the road.
- We should try and have a meeting with our local businesses to discuss all these things. January – March 2021?
- The idea of getting out in front of it instead of just letting it happen & getting what we get.

Chamber Chat-Bill Elfo guest speaker Thursday @ 1:00pm (15th)

- Danielle please send him a reminder.
- Doralee said that Exec. Sidhu was supporting the Birch Bay Deputy Program. But perhaps we need to be at that meeting when the budget goes to County Council to push for it.

AGM – Billy made a motion to decide on where/when for the AGM – Liz asked to hold on this until next week (hopefully mid-November)

- Possibly a real live in-person AGM at the Silver Reef.
- Danielle, Liz & Doralee to go to lunch next week at Silver Reef.
- Ability to host both virtual & in-person & using our new projector.
- Dave just wants to make sure we are safe, & we don't end up in the news for having an event.

By-Laws Revision – 5 board members (2 one year & 3 the next) – Billy motioned to approve the letter Liz created and submitted – All in Favor & no Discussion.

- Liz proposed sending the letter and holding a special meeting (via ZOOM) to vote on By-law revision. This should be done prior to the AGM.
- Liz will mail next week & set up special meeting to vote – October 26th?

National Night out: Re-Cap

- Lots of fun, everyone had a blast,
- Next year hopeful for an in-person event but would love the parade to be part of it either in or out of the event.
- Next year lets remember to have the lead police officer use the speakers to announce what was happening.

Board members BBQ and gift for Todd

- Iain wanted to do something, and we will plan it and let everyone know.

- Since it's his last year, get him something nice to say thank you for all he's done.

October Events:

- Whatcom Trip or Treat – Windermere should be a stop. Danielle will email Billy tomorrow or Monday to make them be a stop.
- PTO Scavenger Hunt Birch Bay/
- Pumpkin carving Contest

Polar Bear Plunge

- Danielle starting to research what other people are doing.
- Completely Virtual might be an ideal option.
 - With construction it is going to be very difficult & dangerous for us to host it.
 - Ask people to send their videos:
 - Dave could compile the video – would be great to have all the content. (200 videos would give us content for years!
 - More prizes: Best Scream, Best Costume etc.
- Possibly heats? Many throughout the day.
- Socially distanced?
- Will have to wait and see what the berm looks like at the end of December
 - Will have to ask at our Coffee with the Contractor at the end of the month.

Ring of Fire

- Check with granite Construction

Meeting Adjourn:

Next Board Meeting November 8th 5:30pm

Respectfully submitted:

Doralee Booth, Secretary

(Thank you Danielle for providing the draft minutes)