



Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce
Board Meeting Minutes
April 14th, 2022 – 4:00 PM



CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL: DEREK JONES - PRESIDENT

Roll Call: *Present:* Danielle Gaughen – Executive Director, Dianne Marrs-Smith, Secretary, JoEll Kuoppala – Vice President, Doralee Booth – Director, Dan McEvoy - Director, Molly Ernest – Director

Absent: Jake Gobielle – Director, Linda Galle – Treasurer, Sacha Sanguinetti – Events Coordinator, Rhino Development

Guest: Iain Buchanan – Birch Bay Waterslides, Pat Alesse – C-Shop

PUBLIC COMMENT: Kathy McDevitt – Birch Bay Historical Society. B.B.H.S. background. Captain Vancouver Day will be June 11th, 2022. Kathy asked for a Chamber donation and needs a commitment for item donation by end of April. Items needed by June. JoEll will be creating gift basket. This is just something from Chamber and JoEll's office will donate. Chamber could donate T-Shirts. Iain will donate from the Waterslides. We can contact Patrick Alesse for information. Location of event is still to be determined.

APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES: Motion Approved

APRIL MEMBER OF THE MONTH: eXp Realty – Dave Hiller & Brooks Friedland

MAY MEMBER OF THE MONTH: C-Shop – Took time to help us with Yarn Shop connection- Motion Approved

FINANCIAL REPORT:

AS OF March 31st

- BANNER BANK BALANCE: \$44,965.66 BALANCE PETTY CASH: \$ 573.43
 - APPROVAL OF MARCH FINANCIAL REPORT: **Motion Approved**
 - **Danielle suggested a mid-year budget review since we have incurred some added expenses with looming relocation.**

EXECUTIVE REPORT – DANELLE GAUGHEN

- **2022 LTAC BALANCE: \$82,136.06**
 - February Reimbursement of **\$9,017.66** was received and deposited.
 - March Reimbursement of **\$7,857.96** was sent to Whatcom County on 5/1/2022
 - Should receive reimbursement by week of the 25th
 - Will send April Reimbursement on April 1st – expect it to be about **\$8000.00**
- **VISITOR COUNTS:**
 - *March 2022* = 169 Visitors/642 Nights
 - *March 2021* = 98 Visitors/409 Nights
 - *March 2020* = 35 Visitors/42 Nights
 - *March 2019* = 243 Visitors/622 Nights

Statistics: See Attached

- **MEMBERSHIP:**
 - *Total Members:* 144
 - *New Members:*
 - Knappster Solutions
 - Doug Parent – Fine Art
 - Summit Funding
 - 15 Unpaid Memberships as of April 4, 2022 – see list for notes

EVENTS REPORT – SACHA SANGUINETTI (ON VACATION); May 13th

- Bike Safety Day/Bike Skills Course – Derek and Danielle

All proceedings will be recorded



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- We will do hot dogs, buns and chips with movie after. **Di will help Derek with hot dogs. BBBPRD2 will provide funds for food items.**
- St. Joe's will provide trauma nurse and helmets.

COUNTY LIASON REPORT – DORALEE BOOTH

- Semiahmoo Highlands Update – across from Blue Heron. 480-500 homes
- Starts in Blaine and drops down into Whatcom County
- Mid-May application will go to City of Blaine
- Storm water, transportation issues, safety were not well thought out prior to the meeting
- Petition – online – maybe add to the Buzz. This is not about stopping growth. It is about meeting community priorities before this development moves forward. We want a plan. **Derek** – we could send this petition out and say the Chamber does not hold a stance on this issue, we are sending for informational purposes. We should take this to the County Council.
- City of Blaine had delegates. Whatcom County did not.
- Trying to connect Birch Bay with Blaine group. Doralee believes they are moving in the right direction.
- We should join in so we know what is happening as this will effect Birch Bay.
- 3 and 4 plex on property - \$800,000 to \$1,000,000.

OTHER:

- VISITOR CENTER RELOCATION!
- Starts May 11th
- Yarn Shop – has enough space. Has storage. Has very small bathroom for employees – not public. No heat – Sustainable Connections has been contacted. We should consider a heat pump. Jack will not do much, so volunteers would be needed. Derek – would Jack pay of we do the work? The thought is that he wouldn't, but maybe we can ask for reduced rent. Molly says husband can look at flooring, we clean up the floor and add carpet tile. Molly will contact Sherman Williams about scrape pieces of flooring. Doralee also has scraps.
- Let's get a new toilet.
- JoEll's place – needs work and will take time. Does have some water damage and location isn't the best. JoEll says owner is willing to remodel and work on the rent with us. We will drive more traffic down there.
- Terril Creek Landing – move in ready, but not on the beaten path. 2 offices in the back, very clean, nice bathroom for visitors. Not sure of price. Dan – if we have the right signage we can be seen. Likes move in ready. Better space for staff. Is for tourism, but what are people seeking out?
- Derek – we might be able to branch out and have kiosks.
- Molly would argue we need walk-by numbers for grants and such. We could do a weekend of painting and lay the carpet tiles. Good location at yarn shop and we might be more visitors.
- Doralee – we should look at Worldmark and see what there prices are. Old Liquor Store is a good location. County likes to know heads in beds. The Grants will have a say in this, not Worldmark. Will have Mike Kent follow-up on this.
- We spend \$600 a month for rent and \$400 for utilities. We are at maxium budget.
- We need to have rent prices by 4/22 to compare. We think the Yarn Shop would be the cheapest. Could we sign at least 2 years for the lease. Dan suggests frontloading rent and reduce over time. Derek – If we do all reno's and he locks us in to 5-7 year lease. Molly says we need lease with first right of refusal option.
- Portable on the waterslides? Iain says it could go where sheds are on the corner now. There is enough room at the water park. Dan – we need to think about bathrooms. A contractor unit would have that and Baker Septic



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would come out and pump. Ian will get Danielle a contact. Ian would think about cost and let us know. Parking, pavement, will bring visitors. There are traffic patterns will need to be looked at.

- We should change direction of sign to point people towards the VIC if at the Yarn Shop.
- Direction for Danielle – Get Worldmark and Yarn Shop, Waterslide space with mobile place, information for comparison by April 20st.
- **The Board talked about a 2 week closure if needed.**
- Doralee – Mike Kent, Worldmark
- Iain - will make call about portable units. Will talk to Nancy about design.
- Molly - \$2.25 a square foot for laminate and supplies from husband. Will price carpet tiles.
- Derek and Danielle – Will talk to Jack about terms. We need to consider an office or separate space for staff to work.
- Chamber needs to make a statement to members, business and County. Truthful, stand alone statement, asking for help. We will wait til we know where we are going to move to. Then ask for community help.
- **Danielle – Will call utility company before the end of the month.**

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- **Special Meeting for VIC Relocation** – April 20nd, 4pm-4:45pm pm via Zoom
- **Chamber Luncheon:** April 21, 2022 – BP Heron Center
 - **SPEAKER:** Sandy Ward – Bellingham Whatcom County Tourism
 - **Lunch:** Working on it.
- **Next Board Meeting:** Thursday, May, 12th, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 6pm

Minutes submitted by Dianne Marrs-Smith, Secretary