

Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
October 13, 2022 – 4:05 PM – 5:30 PM

**CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL:** JoEll Abbot – Vice President, Dianne Marrs-Smith – Secretary, Linda Galle-Parent – Treasurer, Danielle Gaughen – Executive Director, Sasha Sanguinetti – Events Coordinator, Molly Ernst – Director, Doralee Booth – Whatcom County Liaison; *Derek Jones – PRESIDENT Arrived at 4:45pm due to an emergency.*

Guests Present: Matt Berry and Patrick Alesse

Absent: Dan McEvoy - Director, Excused; Jake Gobeille – Director, unexcused

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Matt Berry** – Interested in a Board Position and would like a committee to handle incorporation/annexation, Stated initially he wanted look for feedback from the community (“what are their hopes and fears”) would gather as much public comment using surveys using fliers, email, social media to get a large amount of feedback. Then craft the boundaries and appeal to the highest amount of people. Stated that he felt the Chamber should be involved because of the reputation in brings.

**Patrick Alesse** – Noted if the Chamber is involved, you might have resistance. People assume the Chamber wants to make money.

**Doralee Booth** – Has information she will share about a 2008 incorporations study that was done. At that time we had an implementation committee & 3 options were presented:

- Join Blaine,
- Stay the Same
- Become a City.

Felt that annexation was a very viable option, but felt the response was lukewarm. Felt concerns that the power shift would change Blaine, and felt there was resistance. Birch Bay lacks commercial businesses here & much of our taxation would be on residential. Our evaluation is \$1.2 billion.

Doralee encourages Matt to form a committee, gather public comment and agreed that Birch Bay needs to be looked at.

**APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES:** Motion approved

**OCTOBER MEMBER OF THE MONTH:** 7 Elements Spa

**NOVEMBER MEMBER OF THE MONTH:** Christ the King -Motion Approved.


**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

**AS OF SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>**


- **BANNER BANK BALANCE: \$29,355.69**      **BALANCE PETTY CASH: \$127.21**
  - ERC from 2020 (**\$11,751.45**) + 2021 (**\$35,012.94**) – Still expected anytime between now & May 2023.
  - BBBPRD2 Event Grant for Halloween & Ring/Polar still expected.
  - WFEA Grant (**\$11,000**) Expected soon, final documentation was provided this week.
  - Membership renewal letters will go out November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022
    - **\$7,850** was received between November 1<sup>st</sup> & December 31<sup>st</sup> 2022.
  - APPROVAL OF AUGUST FINANCIAL REPORT: **Motion approved.**

**EXECUTIVE REPORT – DANELLE GAUGHEN**

- **CURRENT LTAC Balance: \$17,762.00 + \$3,263.06 in Porta-Potty Funding**
  - September Reimbursement of **\$9,859.02** was sent to the county September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022
  - August Reimbursement of **\$9,788.08** was received & deposited in September.
  - 2022 Year-end Estimates for LTAC
    - October: Around \$7,600.00 in Operations & \$590 in Toilets
    - November: Around \$7,600 in Operations & \$260 in Toilets
    - December: Around \$7,600 in Operations & \$260 in Toilets
      - Will exceed our 2022 LTAC Operation allocation of \$110,000.
      - Pending any damages to reaming porta-potty units we will still have Porta-potty funds left out of emergency allocation.
- Conferences
  - Danielle will be attending WCCE Conference October 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>
  - Sacha will be attending WFEA Conference November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>
- **VISITOR COUNTS:** *Currently down about 25% but most visitors we are seeing are repeat visitors & may need less info.*
  - Brainstorm on how to get more visitors to the center.



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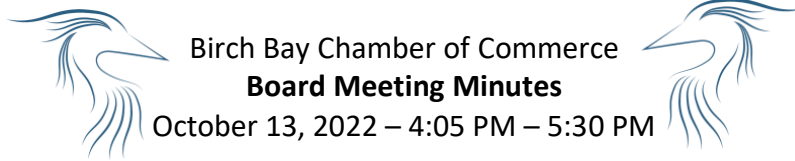
- Visitor Center Business Cards
- Visitor Center Post Cards
- Airbnb + VRBO – Open House – January
- Doralee would like to see the Visitor Center Wind Sign updated with VISITOR CENTER large at the top.
  - DG will work on this.

- **MEMBERSHIP:**

- *Total Members:* 153
- *New Members:*
  - Posh Balloon Décor
  - SCORE Bellingham Chapter
  - Guardian NW Title & Escrow
  - Sahara Pizza
- Member Visits – Recap/Update – Members are happy to see us and we are enjoying talking to them. It's good to go out and physically see people. Sign-ups will be available through the end of November to complete.
- Matt asked if Windemere could come to VIC for open house 10/18 – YES!

**EVENTS REPORT – Sacha Sanguinetti**

- Volunteer Appreciation Party Recap – Lots of fun
- 2022 – Year-end update/planning
  - Halloween: Trick-or-Treat on the Berm (Parking behind the Beach is confirmed.)
  - Ring of Fire & Hope – WECU giving \$500 for led flares.
    - Motion to get 60 – 2 pack) reusable flairs, cost is \$11 for 2, selling for \$20 – **Motion Approved.**
  - Polar Bear Plunge
    - Sponsorship Opportunities – WECU giving \$2,000
  - 2023 event dates are coming together.
    - Discover Days will be revamped. One day each week to celebrate businesses.
    - Thursdays are the ideal day, with lots of pre and post promotion. Sacha will stress to members that they need to have a good offer and we aren't there to sell products for the businesses.
  - Restructured Sponsorships for next year, will continue with Platinum Packages.
    - Gold Sponsorships will be retired and will replace with ala cart menu of options.
    - Sacha's structure insures events will be paid for with sponsorships and grants.
- Beloved volunteer Jeanne not well. Board motioned to send her a card and flowers.
- AGM Planning – Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 4:00 PM
  - Informal, tickets for attendance, will keep it affordable.
  - At Birch Bay Leisure Park.
  - Decided the following directors will be on odd year terms – and up for renewal in 2023:
    - Derek
    - Dianne
    - Molly
    - Dan
  - Decided the following directors will be on even year terms – and up for renewal in 2022:
    - Doralee
    - Linda
    - Joell
    - Jake
  - Not sure if Jake is interested in re-running.
  - 2023 board expectation setting of regular attendance & communication about absences will be required of all members.
  - Other folks interested in running for a board position:
    - Lisa – Birch Bay Leisure Park
    - John Roy – Suite #105
    - Matt Berry – Windermere Real Estate



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**OTHER:**

- Amy on through October & November + December she anticipates she is available Wednesdays & Saturdays.
  - Will need volunteers on Sunday's November & December. DG to resend link.
- Amy will likely be available regularly in January – but is unsure of her plans after that.
- Golf Carts
  - Can we get locals to donate their golf carts for summer events?
  - Could Chamber buy our own golf cart? Start looking at used.

**COUNTY LIASON REPORT – inadvertently skipped.**

- Need to Attend Parks Commissioners Meeting – at BBBPRD2 – Rec Center?
- We need to go to County Council meeting and ask where funds for Beach Park went too.
- County Council needs to decide on bathrooms and we to attend meeting and talk about the crisis.
- Talked about Issue with TIP plan & intersection at the bottom of the new Horizon development. Needs our attention

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

- Chamber Luncheon – Thursday, October 20th, 2022 @ Christ The King – North Bay, Thank you Dan!
  - Pizza's were offered from Sahara Pizza!
  - Speaker SCORE – Non-profit offering help to new/small businesses.
- Hosting WTA Meeting here: Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 – 6:30 PM
- Next Board Meeting: November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Adjourn at 5:30pm

Minutes submitted by Dianne Marrs-Smith, Secretary  
Edited by Danielle Gaughen