

February 13, 2018 Member Meeting

Shelby Area Chamber of Commerce

Meeting Minutes

The Shelby Area Chamber of Commerce serves to promote a positive business environment as a voice and resource in partnership with business, education, agriculture, civic and community organizations throughout Shelby and Toole County.

CALL TO ORDER

President Nea Rice called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at Pizza Hut. Members present included President Nea Rice, Vice President Brent Madrid, Treasurer Cheri Hirst, Chamber Executive Director Laura Welker, Crissy Bauman, Lorette Carter, Michael O'Brien, Jennifer Van Heel, Steven Bennett, Locke Mellott, Elliott Crump, Cindy Combs, and Tyler Bucklin.

Laura Welker was introduced by President Rice as the new Executive Director of the Shelby Chamber of Commerce. She was hired by the board last week and began her new role on Monday. Laura will be taking minutes for this and all future Chamber Member Meetings.

REPORTS

City of Shelby: Lorette Carter presented the following report:

- The Council was presented a final draft of the Program Income Plan. Beginning in 1999, the city had several housing grant from Home Investment Partnership Program – HOME and CDBG for down payment assistance and housing rehab for low to moderate income people. The old programs required a repayment of the money loaned at zero interest when homeowners sold or moved out of their assisted home. This money is held within the city's accounts or sent back to the Department of Commerce as Program Income. The Department of Commerce HOME/CDBG program specialists have asked us to draft a Program Income Plan in which the funds could be reinvested in the community. These programs have strict eligible programs from which to use the funds. We no longer having a housing program as regulations made it not feasible, but there are many public facilities that need ADA improvements. With approval of the Program Income Plan, the city will then seek approval to work on our ADA accessibility priorities.
- Federal Rail Administration Grant: KLJ Engineering coordinated a review of the rail crossing/rail safety project with BNSF/Amtrak, MDT, the City and FRA. The group discussed the logistics of the projects and alternative safety measures; entity needs and responsibilities; and time frame for approval or work. Following the meeting, Mayor McDermott, Jade and Lorette met with KLJ engineers to review the safety measure

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alternatives for the Galena and Highway 2 crossings. KLJ is researching the potential of medians as an alternative to wayside horns and the estimated cost of quad gates.

- The Montana Accessible Playground Grant application was sent in early January.
- The Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks Recreational Trail grant for trail maintenance equipment and development of a picnic area was submitted. Loretta thanked Robyn Skillman for enlisting her students to writing letters of support, over 30 of which were included in the application.
- The Shelby Volunteer Fire Department has submitted an application for funding from the Department of Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters Grant.
- The third session of Leadership Toole County was January 16th. The area of discussion was finances, transportation, energy and agriculture. The final session of Leadership Toole County will be Tuesday, February 20th. Discussion will include medical and health services and recreation and tourism as well a final wrap up and call to action.
- With the closing of the Family Services office, Sheriff Whitt, Commissioner Brandon, Health Department Director, Kristi Aklestad, Pastor Chad Scarborough and Lorette have developed a resource directory to assist those in need. Once printed they will be distributed to all public sites and churches and published on City and County websites.

Toole County: No one was present from Toole County, so no report was given.

Shelby Public School District #14: **Principal Elliott Crump** reported two Shelby students placed 6th the State Wrestling Tournament. The 100th day of school was celebrated on February 5th. The art class is coming along nicely with their cafeteria mural painting, and Elliott will post pictures when it is finished. The fifth grade spelling bee will be held today at 2 pm and the county spelling bee will be held on the 26th. The school board meeting is also scheduled for today. Shelby is hosting the 10C basketball tournament this Wednesday through Saturday— Elliott invited members to come down and watch. The 1B basketball tournament will be held in Conrad February 15-17. Brackets and times can be found on the school website. There is no school on Monday. The Screenagers documentary will be shown to various grades on February 27th, with an open community viewing and forum at 7:00 PM. Girls basketball divisional tournament is March 1-3 in Cut Bank. Conrad is hosting the FFA Crops and Mechanics Workshop on March 3. March 5-6 is parent-teachers conference, and March 8-10 is the State Basketball Tournament in Missoula.

Sunburst Public Schools: **Principal Tyler Bucklin** thanked Ten Pin Alley for hosting Sunburst schools' Christmas party in December. The State Speech and Drama was held January 26-27, and three of the four Sunburst students made the podium. Sunburst schools are participating in the district tournament this week in Shelby, and divisionals will be held February 21-24 at the Four Seasons Arena in Great Falls. Sunburst will also be participating in Shelby's Screenagers screenings. The local science fair will be held on March 13, and the regional science fair on March 15. Sunburst 5th and 6th graders had a fun ski day in Showdown on January 18, and the 7th and 8th graders went on February 1st. Luke Holland won the local spelling bee this morning, and will advance to the Shelby spelling bee on the 26th. Junior High basketball starts on February 20th and concludes the first weekend of April.

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Marias Medical Center/Heritage Center: **Cindy Combs** noted two rooms are open at the Heritage Center. A health fair will be held in the spring. Cindy would like more observers for an emergency drill in April. Volunteers can contact Cindy at 434-3246 for more information. The hospital has new physician arriving in July. Cindy handed out a Lunch & Learn flyer for February 28 at noon at the MMC Conference Room—Lynn Mullowney from the Alzheimer Association will present on “Effective Communication Strategies.”

CoreCivic Safety: **Brent Madrid** introduced his new outside work crew officer Steven Bennett, who was also in attendance. The prison has halted its workshop program, though it has enough materials left for a few tables.

Shelby Merchants’ Association: **Lorette Carter** noted the Merchants’ Association is working on their April Flowers Bring Main Street Flowers cash/prize calendars. The merchants are looking for calendar sponsors as well as gifts to include as giveaways. Please contact Sanna Clark at Fieldstone Office Supply. The calendars will go on sale in March.

Other Business: **Lorette Carter** reported the Montana Office of Tourism has awarded the Carousel Rest Area a grant of \$33,000, and the BNSF Foundation has notified Mr. Benjamin of a \$5,000 contribution. Mr. Benjamin is hoping to hold the grand opening of the carousel in May.

OLD BUSINESS

Cheri Hirst reported that the Comfort Inn hosted the January Chamber After Hours. They enjoyed a record turnout to their dinner. Cheri suggested sending flowers to Leavitt Insurance in recognition of their new expansion and location on Main Street. **Brent Madrid** moved to send Leavitt Insurance a floral gift. **Chrissy Bauman** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

- Cheri and Nea welcomed their **new Chamber of Commerce Executive Director**, Laura Welker. Laura is a native of Shelby, and has recently moved back after working in Helena as a legal assistant, association manager and bookkeeper for the past seven years.
- Lorette Carter noted that **St. William’s Parish is hosting a prime rib dinner** on Saturday, March 24 at 5:00 PM to benefit its building maintenance fund and youth ministry fund. She handed out flyers for attending members to post.
- **The March Member Meetings** will be held at the Griddle.
- Upcoming **Chamber After Hours** – March will be jointly hosted by KW Insurance and TD & H Engineering on March 20th. April will be hosted by 3Rivers Communications. May will be hosted by CoreCivic at the Comfort Inn with the theme of Cinco De Uno.
- **The Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet** will be held April 20th at the Civic Center. The Banquet Committee will meet next week prior to the member meeting to organize the final details. Wheelhouse is providing the entertainment, and the Chamber will give four free tickets to Dave Alvestad and Gwen Heaton for their free performance. TLC was recently sold and the new owners will send Brent a bid and their menu list.

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- **Committee Sign Up** – Cheri invited volunteers to serve on a Chamber committee. Committee members aren't required to belong to the Chamber Board of Directors, so it is open to anyone.
- **Coupon of the Week:** *Frontier Supper Club – buy 1 dinner, get ½ off equal or lesser value on 2nd dinner.* Nea reminded members to purchase and sell the coupon books.

FINAL BUSINESS

- **Kudos of the Week** were given to the Shelby Junior High and High School Wrestlers for their excellent tournament. Cheri gave kudos to First Choice Plumbing, as they went above and beyond their duty in working to repair her hotel plumbing this past week.
- **Open Forum:** Cheri noted that the Comfort Inn was chosen to host the annual meeting for the Montana chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. It was an honor for Shelby to be chosen, and the Foundation would love opportunities to give more talks on the High Line regarding suicide prevention. Pictures of this meeting have been posted on the Comfort Inn's Facebook page.

With no further business to discuss, the member meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm by President Nea Rice.