

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
 Tuesday, September 4, 2018  
 12:00 PM



Board of Directors	Present	Reported Absence	Unreported Absence
Joe Dvorak	X		
Joshua Miron	X		
Corey Berube	X		
Gretchen Blaufuss	X		
Frank Christopherson		X	
Todd Cummings	X		
Sara Helseth	X		
Bonnie Menigo		X	
Butch Nicoll	X		
Julie Samuelson	X		
Kiersten Peck		X	
Lara Smetana		X	
Julie Stevens		X	

Chamber Members
Jeremiah Mohr, Dustbusters
Lezlie Sauter, City of Pine City
Tahsha Goldberg, Pine City Pioneer
Annette Freiheit, Pine City Public Schools
Guests
Bob Haedt

**AGENDA:**

Dvorak called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

Santa Bob Haedt requested a minute on the agenda today to express his thanks to the Chamber Board and Parade Committee for selecting him to serve as the Grand Marshall for the parade this year. It was an honor to be considered and he truly enjoyed the opportunity.

**President’s Report**

President Dvorak shared highlights at FirstLight Health System. Later this month he will be taking part in the Dragon Technology Summit as a presenter. Flu shot season has begun and the Pharmacy and Clinic are able to take walk-in appointments for the flu shot.

The Executive Committee met last week to discuss a few items and wanted to address the discussion happening at the City Council. The city is currently negotiating for the next lease agreement with the County and there has been discussion about the city shrinking the footprint of space that they use within the South Pine Government Center. It is possible that the new arrangements would displace the Chamber Office and require the Chamber to consider a possible relocation.

There doesn’t appear to be a firm plan in place with the City, but the executive team felt that some discussion regarding our options for office space should be had. Suggestions for possible solutions included: review of storefront options and the lease costs for those locations and partnering with another local entity for space. Cummings suggested that we start prepping the 2019 budget to include money for a possible future rental need. Nicoll has suggested that we hold off on implementing any changes until the city determines their final plan. No action was taken at this time.

**Executive Director Report**

**Membership:** As of August 31st, current membership is at 212 members for 2018. One new member in August: Furnishings for You, LLC – a used furniture store located in A Place for You. Profits from this venture support the local shelter.

**Map Project 2018:** The Greater Pine City area map is in need of a reprint, so we are beginning the process of seeking out advertising partners. Letters have gone out to the current advertisers to see if there is interest in participating again. New space is likely available for anyone interested in being added.

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Candidate Forum 2018: The Pine City Chamber, Pine Technical & Community College and WINDOW are partnering once again to host a candidate forum event in October. Schueller is seeking volunteers to assist with this event as a panel member or moderator. Cummings volunteered to serve as moderator if needed this year.

Treasurer's Report: Expenses incurred by the general fund included postage for visitor packet requests and office supplies along with Chamber Chat and payroll for the month of September. These general fund expenses total \$1,960.90. Additional expenses for dedicated funds include: \$84.02 for Ambassador Fund. *A motion was made by Cummings to approve the Treasurer's Report, second by Miron. Motion carried.*

## **Business & Community Development**

Frank Christopherson, committee member for the EDA and Planning Commission, shared the following highlights:

- » Planning Commission continues to work through various chapters of the Comprehensive Plan. At the August meeting the group had discussions about how the city can be more effective in meeting the needs of tourism in the community.

## **Committee Reports**

New Teacher Welcome Breakfast

- » Committee members Dvorak, Samuelson & Blaufuss, along with Schueller attended the breakfast event on Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> to welcome 13 new teachers to the school district.
- » The thank you gift bags were done well again this year and had a great selection of items contributed by our membership. Thank you to each business that took that time to donate this year.

Annual Banquet

- » Date has been set for Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> with social hour beginning at 5:00 PM and dinner at 6:30 PM.
- » The committee has selected a casual theme this year – fishing!
- » Seeking event sponsor partnerships at this time, flyer ready by September 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **Chamber Member Updates**

- » School is back in session as of today... with the high school students starting back to full class schedules today. At the elementary school, the first two days of school are 30 minute conferences with each student and parents at a scheduled time on either Tuesday or Wednesday. Elementary students start back with their first day on Thursday.
- » Jeremiah Mohr with DustBusters was in attendance for his first member meeting. He shared information about his commercial and residential duct cleaning services.
- » There has been a change for the Pine City Ambassador program as of last week. Tommi Hernandez has resigned as an Ambassador for the community. We are pleased to welcome Keyara Berube as our newest ambassador for the 2018-2019 season.

*A motion was made by Miron to adjourn the meeting at 12:55PM, second by Blaufuss. Motion carried.*