

## Board Meeting Minutes August 22, 2024

**Present:** Tyler Schroeder, Derek Hamilton, Stéphane Warnock, Brent Laverty, Derek Wiebe, Zoria Constantino, Connie Pauls, Mariyam Tsygankova, Clare Agnew.

**Regrets:**, Leah Olson, Susan Lee

**Special Guest:** Carrie Hiebert, MLA for Morden-Winkler. Courtney Peters, Summer Student.

**Welcome and Call to Order** 12:05

**Agenda: MOTION: D. Hamilton/Z. Constantino.** To adopt the agenda with revised order of items. **CARRIED.**

**Conflicts of Interest:** nothing noted.

**Minutes: MOTION: S. Warnock/D. Wiebe.** To adopt minutes of June 20, 2024, board meeting as presented. **CARRIED.**

**Special Guest Presentation: Carrie Hiebert, MLA.** Carrie acknowledged the positive, proactive work the Chamber is doing to support the business community. The top 5 areas of concern she shared with us are:

1. Wastewater issues: she is meeting with infrastructure and finance ministers. Supported our letter writing campaign.
2. Apprenticeship changing from 2 to 1, to 1 to 1. Drastically affects our labour force.
3. Housing: affordable and trying to create different options.
4. Health Care: shortage of staff. She is working with Stanley on recruitment of HC workers.
5. Day Care: spaces and staff. There is currently a waitlist of 400, and although we have two new centers opening it isn't enough. She's on a steering committee to work on this. A huge challenge for school aged children. *Question raised:* how many people that are using food banks could be working if there were daycare spots, which in turn assist with putting food on the table.

**Treasurer's Report: Motion: C. Pauls/D. Wiebe.** To adopt the Treasurer's report as presented. **CARRIED.** Clare to follow up with City on grant funds.

**Member Feedback:** positive feedback on interaction with the city on the wastewater issues. Some concern from landlords on rising utilities cost.

**Executive Director Report:** Clare shared information about the events. Final report for summer student submitted. Receiving grant for participating in the climate change program and hosting a forum.

**Committee Reports:**

**Committee Memberships:**

- **Executive:** no report
- **Member Services:** work completed on the website. Check it out!
- **Networking, Events & Promotions:** no report
- **Chairperson's Report:** as circulated. Tyler asked everyone to share what they think we should focus on in the next 6 months.
  - Continue to work on Wastewater

- Relationship building with the City of Morden
- Committees to follow strat plan and DO more things.
- Is there something we can do to support the before/after daycare concerns?
- Committees identify markers for tasks and follow through.
- **Advocacy & Governance:** S. Warnock reviewed the initial letter sent to the City and the corresponding Letter Writing Campaign they had asked us to pursue. C. Hiebert asked if there was an economic report/survey on the impact of the situation. Is there a way we can circulate a survey or poll? Carrie is looking for facts on investment from a business side as well as residential. Refer to the Advocacy Committee.

**New Business** – discussed asking Community Futures to present a lunch & learn on Business Plans. Clare to follow up.

**Old Business – tabled to June meeting.**

- Exploring New Revenue Streams
- Sponsorship Packages – Clare met with an outside marketing person for feedback. Will be ready to start approaching business in October.

**Adjourn: D. Hamilton/ B. Lavery.**

**Next Board Meeting:** Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Upcoming Events:**

- September 14 – Cut to the Ace: Poker Rally
- September 17 – Inspire Wellness @ Bella’s Castle
- September 26 – Your Region Your Voice
- October 21 to 25 - Small Business Week
- November 13 – Lunch & Learn
- November 14 – Wrapping Up a Morden Christmas