

## **BACC Monthly meeting February 11, 2022 VIRTUAL Via Zoom.**

**Attending:** Rae, Leitha, Lee, Jim, Shawn, Debra, Blair, Cheryl, Stacey

**Regrets:** Dan, Liam, Blair, Jayme, Brooke

Called to order at 8:30.

**Additions:** Correspondence

**Minutes:** approved

**Correspondence:** Dan was asked for a donation from the Health Services Radiothon, has asked for more information. We're unsure of the date. We will discuss when we have more info.

Chamber Chat: Greg Brown (TOB)

Request from BNI for a speed networking event in March. Business Networking International is a huge organization – they recruit and network, offer referrals, members generate points. They are a Chamber Member. We are hosting them in May for our lunch and learn, and we have promoted them in the past. BACC hesitant to host an in person event at this time – we will send an email back asking for clarity on what they are asking for and our level of involvement.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Education:** nothing to update on education, as Brooke is not here to report but everything is still lined up, we are booked until May.

**Government Involvement:** nothing to report

**Community Membership Program:** nothing to report

**Nominations Committee:** Shawn met with Liam and Brian, asked Dan to reach out to everyone. Jim, Blair and Lee are not reoffering, three spots we need to fill – and they are big roles, we would love to have someone with experience. If anyone is interested in filling a role – please reach out to Shawn. Jim will stay on as past president. We are also in communication with Michelin about a new rep.

**Financial Report:** as submitted. Most revenue comes from membership dues, they are still coming in. 4 workplace programs so far. We have \$75k+ in cash. We are able to say we're in a strong financial position.

**Executive:** nothing to report.

**Executive Director:** nothing to report

**MODL:** Leitha is back from a brief medical leave. MODL is offering another round of Emergency Funding for Community Groups and Halls and beginning discussion on budget. Winter recreation opportunities

have been prolific with the weather, but so have the road complaints. Jim asked about road work around Exit 12 – MODL Councilors and MODL as a whole have been highlighting the concerns with the potholes in this area, but this does fall under provincial jurisdiction. The road conditions are having an impact on businesses in Cookville and as an entry point for our region. Jim will write a letter on behalf of BACC asking for road improvements.

**TOB:** focus on budget, strategic planning and prioritizing items for budget. Council usually goes to a public setting to engage residents and businesses to get feedback, but this year are using an online survey. Council is meeting virtually. Things feel different without the big events – but Council is focused on budget.

#### **ONGOING BUSINESS:**

**Banking:** We have transitioned to BMO – the majority of the banking transition has been completed. Still a plan to invest some of that money – we will have a report on our options next month.

**Strategic Planning with NSCC Student:** have had a few meetings with William, he’s working on the project, we gave him an outline of our expectations on how to engage members, increase participation and involvement from members on our committees, how can we promote “what can you contribute to your chamber?”. He will bring back suggestions for committee ideas, involvement and strategic plans. We have a framework for assessing his performance. We are feeling very confident in his abilities. It’s a 13 week program, we are giving him quite a bit of support. We are meeting with him regularly.

**Survey results and networking event:** Rae was interviewed by Salt Wire about it. 13 responses – everyone was impressed. Please share with Greg Brown from TOB. Networking Event in two weeks – it was agreed to push it back to March 10<sup>th</sup> to allow Jim and Blair to develop some structure for the presentation on results, but also to invite Mayors and MLAs to attend. The hope is to have a fluid discussion about the survey results. All Chairs of Committees should plan to attend. Dan will send invitations to mayors and MLAs for March 10<sup>th</sup>, this will be a virtual discussion

**Website:** Blog will be added to the website! A new company wants to do “regular tech tips” – could be some great content for website. Will re-post stories of people we’ve covered before and do some follow up interviews. Can have different categories – new businesses, looking for opportunities, tech tips – anyone could contribute.

**Premier’s Event:** we are still working on this, has been a challenge to find a date. Will ask for update from Dan.

**School Applications:** applications have been sent out, we hope this will move forward in September. Reach out to schools to get a student representative on the board – a visiting board member to learn more about the chamber and board participation. They might join for the October meeting, as they will just be starting school.

**Chamber Voice Newsletter:** comes out March 21<sup>st</sup>. This newsletter will look at survey results, also want to make it a bit of a resource guide.

**Bursaries:** \$500 bursaries for each of the three schools. We are looking for sponsors! We will put information about bursaries and sponsorship opportunities in the newsletter. Great focus for businesses. This is open to any grad. Will just ensure that that messaging is clear.

**AGM:** planned for June 17<sup>th</sup>. No need to discuss this now, but if anyone has ideas for keynote speakers, please make suggestions. Fingers crossed this AGM will be in person.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25.

Next Meeting March 11<sup>th</sup>

Submitted with errors and omissions by Leitha Haysom.