

Big White Chamber of Commerce Meeting Minutes Wednesday 16th July 2014 – 5.05pm

Board Present:

David Webb (President)
John Mooney (Treasurer)
Jude Brunt (Secretary)
Chris Sherriff (Director)

By Phone

Michael J Ballingall (Past President)

Apologies

Mark Lofquist (Vice-President)
Leanne Foster (Director)
Marie Martin (Director)

Agenda:

- 1. Welcome Guests** Welcome to all members & guests present
Colin Burns, Don & Theresa Hickson, Bryon Pesut, Kim & Pete Hutchinson, Josh Foster
Vivien & Paul Burr ridge, Melissa Killips, Paul Zaleski, Billy Martin, Wolfgang and Sylvia
Zappe-Chlum
- 2. Minutes Agreed at Last Meeting**
Moteded by Jude. Seconded by David - All agreed.
- 3. Matters Arising from Minutes**
No matters that are not already on the agenda.
- 4. Correspondence**
Email correspondence received from Peter Plimmer concerning possible use of Big
White mailing databases to communicate messages re Municipality.
Email correspondence received from John McLean of RDKB stating a meeting was not
possible with the Chamber Board on June 26th due to conflicting schedules
- 5. Reports:**
Presidents Report
David reported on the positive meeting with MLA Linda Larson, attended by him and
Jude on June 26th. She will be visiting Big White later in the summer and following up on
all of the issues raised which fall within her scope.

Treasurers Report
John delivered a treasurer's report stating a \$50 increase since last meeting
giving a current balance of \$17,154.01. Financials are in good standing. The
bank is switching systems, and all new signatories will need to go in within a
few days of each other to sign. It was agreed that Mark Lofquist would be
permitted to go in at a later date once he had returned from overseas.
Motion to approve by Michael, seconded by Chris

Membership Committee Report

Katie Jenion was approved as a new member with an individual membership. Current membership now stands at 31 members.

Branding Committee Report

Chamber Website has been modified with the pro bono assistance of Colin Burns who was thanked by the committee. It is now more user friendly for updates etc. **All Chamber members now have a personal log in code which is their email address, and a password which is their last name. This will allow them to access the "Member Only" parts of the website including meeting minutes and agendas etc.**

6. Temporary Foreign Worker Visas

Josh Foster gave a report on the recent changes to this program which will result in a massive increase in visa fees for the ski and snowboard school. Letters are being written to MP's to stress the negative impact of this on tourism in winter resorts. Any chamber members who are ALSO affected by TFW Visa changes are encouraged to inform the chamber so that their issues can be included in any letter writing campaigns.

7. Mountain Staff Passes.

Michael J confirmed that the Mountain Staff Pass privilege was ONLY available to chamber member staff who are WORKING ON THE HILL during the ski season. The Mountain Staff Pass offers much more than just a regular early bird pass and is an incentive to on hill organisations to be able to recruit staff. Any Chamber Members who wish to offer added incentives within the Mountain Pass deals, should contact Emily Oxley ASAP. Eoxley@bigwhite.com.

Josh also asked members to consider partnering with Big White on other promotions such as the NASCAR shirts for trade shows etc. Further information will follow about this.

8. Winter Festival Update

Michael and Jude updated on recent discussion with Addy Gowe re ideas to fill December with more activity. More lights in village centre is already approved. Addy is looking for others to join an organising committee for this. Current idea is to move Christmas Parade to December 20th to avoid mad rush with everything on Christmas Eve. Just do a longer carol service plus torchlight descents on Christmas Eve to make more special?

9. Summer Opening Update

Michael gave details of what was planned for summer operations so far. Hiking Trails plus September long weekend. This is an historic start of Big White becoming a 2 season resort.

A Motion was proposed by Michael J requesting that the Chamber consider a contribution of \$3000 to Big White Ski Resort as a gesture towards the cost of turning the Bullet Chair for the September long weekend, on the proviso that BWSR would give their best efforts to operate a lift every weekend and long weekend next

summer season. Motion was seconded by John Mooney. Motion Carried

10. Staff Expo

John Mooney presented a concept of a “Big White Expo” incorporating a job fair for all independent businesses, to be held in the VCM during early November? Would be looking for Chamber involvement. The Chamber is also considering a recruitment booth at the Sept long weekend and at The Rock Creek Fair. John agreed to lead this initiative, but is looking for volunteers to help.

11. RDKB Elections

Jude updated on RDKB election timelines and procedures. There will be a polling booth at the White Crystal Inn on November 15th and Director Bill Baird may or may not be standing for re-election. More info would be posted on community sites once the press adverts for nominations are released.

12. Membership Renewals

David and John suggested a report is brought before the next meeting with suggestions for a streamlined membership renewal process involving an annual renewal date and pro rated fees for simplicity. This will be presented at the next meeting.

13. Chamber Anniversary

David noted that the Chamber’s 10 Year Anniversary was coming up in November and suggested we should celebrate that with some kind of dinner or reception. More information to follow.

14. Any Other Business

John suggested that insect spraying around the village should be given consideration once again. It was suggested this was a RDKB responsibility which we can raise with Director Baird when we eventually meet. Perhaps funds could be diverted from Security budget to cover this cost for next summer?

15. Meeting Adjourned at 6.20pm. Next Meeting is Wednesday August 20th 5pm