

**Watson Lake Chamber of Commerce**  
**General Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 13th, 2018**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Call to Order** Meeting called to order @ 12:12 by Cheryl O'Brien  
In Attendance- Cheryl O'Brien, Ruth Wilkinson, Jim Holt, Werner Schneeberger, Kent Langley, Gerry Vigeant, Lorena Funnell, Barry Drury, Gord Sundby, Dianne Amann, Gerry Amann, Cam Lockwood, Rick Harder, Linda Harder, Kayla McMillan, Ray Dyck, Kathy Dyck, Dave Kalles, Steve Pederson, Jenny Skelton, Carleen Kerr, Sandy Legg and Tiffany Lund

**Adoption of Agenda**

- Adoption of Meeting Agenda- *Motioned by Ruth, seconded by Ray. Motion carried.*
- Adoption of February Meeting Minutes- *Motioned by Gerry V., seconded by Kayla. Motion carried.*

**Correspondences**

**Guest Speaker- Carleen Kerr and Sandy Legg- Yukon Tourism Development Strategy Committee**

- Committee formed after a stakeholder round table with Minister Dendys. They are travelling to all Yukon communities to have face to face discussions and to get feedback about tourism strategies for the Yukon.
- Committee plans on having all community visits complete by the end of March. They will then publically publish committee findings for review and then put into strategy. The goal is to make this a Yukon strategy, rather than a YG strategy. Committee understands that they may need to break into regional strategies. Committee hoping to have draft ready by the end of spring.
- WLCC feedback and tourism priorities are as follows:
  - Watson Lake is promoted as the 'Gateway to the Yukon' but no info or maps about the rest of the Yukon.
  - Adding networking along the Alaska highway.
  - Highway vegetation control improvement.
  - More advertising about specific communities.
  - Social media advertising- specifically piggy backing off of Watson Lake's NHLPA hockey camp.
  - Finding ways to entice US citizens to stay in Yukon rather than travelling straight through to Alaska.
  - Promoting Hunting, guides and outfitters.
  - Enhance and maintain rest areas for travellers on bikes. Currently little to no maintenance on highway from Watson Lake to Teslin.
  - Promoting car rally's.
  - Getting projections on the types of travellers.
  - Customer Service training for businesses- Cam said that this is currently available through YG.
  - A focus on eco-tourism, animal photography and bird watchers.
  - Continuing the 'passport' program to encourage travellers to visit local landmarks.

**Cheryl Presented Werner Schneeberger with a plaque commemorating and congratulating on recent retirement.**

#### 1) Financial Report

- N/A

#### 2) Business Continuity Conference

- Conference is being held this week in Whitehorse. Cheryl and Rick had hoped to attend but not able due to work commitments. The TOWL is sending Fire Chief, Charlie Crane and he will provide a report to the WLCC. TOWL able to use YCC funding.

#### 3) Economic Development Conference

- Watson Lake is hosting this conference April 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. Cheryl has been meeting with Cam Lockwood, Lael Lund and Ec. Development about WLCC's involvement.
- WLCC will moderate Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. Jenny is hosting a community tour. WLCC attendance is encouraged to attend a wine and cheese at the Northern Lights Centre. WLCC will host a games night on the 18<sup>th</sup>, dinner provided by Ec. Dev. Cheryl encourages WLCC attendance as all Ministers will be present along with other YG delegation.
- Cheryl looking for store discounts and/or swag bags for 60-80 people.

#### 4) Electoral Boundaries Meeting -recap

- Meeting was held and roughly 30 people attended. WLCC formally submitted concerns about the proposed changes to Watson Lake's boundary. Chief George Morgan also attended and submitted his personal concerns.
- Watson Lake had the best community turnout of all meetings held in Yukon. WLCC was commended on having valid concerns and solution ideas for the Commission to consider. Commission does not make the final decision. They will draft a report, which will go before the legislation for final decision.

### New Business

#### 5) General Meeting Location

- New Nugget Restaurant is now able to do smorgasbords and Rick suggests moving General meetings to the dining room. WLCC in favour of rotating general meetings between New Nugget Restaurant and Sign Post Seniors Centre (WL Foods catering).

### Reports around Town

#### **Town of Watson Lake- Cam Lockwood**

- New Water/Sewer by-law passed. New rates are not yet in effect but will be soon. Curb stop issue was addressed. TOWL purchasing a freezing machine which will help freeze lines when being worked on so that people's services will not be disrupted.
- O&M and Capital budget- first reading at next mayor and council meeting.
- Upcoming Town Hall meeting- Council will discuss budget transparency. They would appreciate feedback from the community to help come up with some solutions. Some solutions up for discussion are reducing or modifying TOWL services and looking at employee layoffs.

#### **WL Ski Club- Jenny Skelton**

- Mount Maichen was open 28 days and 10 nights with 1374 skier/boarders.
- 42 people participated in the Yukon Cup, hosted by WL Ski Club.

- Upcoming Free Style Ski camp and Free Style Snowboarding camp being held at Mount Maichen.

**Yukon College- Kayla McMillan**

- Upcoming courses- Occupational First Aid.
- Offering 2 courses on Early Childhood Development. This is in partnership with the Watson Lake Daycare in hopes of getting people certified so that the Daycare can open. The courses will be 45 hours each.

**Outdoor Rec. Club- Kathy Dyck**

- Trap shoot- March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Property Management**

- Year end is March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- New project starting in Watson Lake to replace school boiler system. Invitational bids only. Bidders were only given 2 weeks to review information and submit bids.

**Meeting Adjourned at 1:24pm**