

**Minutes of the Zoom Meeting
Carman and Community Chamber
of Commerce
March 9th, 2021- 12:00pm**

Present: Jodi Winkler, Tyler King, Mayghan McEacheran, Marni Harrison, Scott Johnston, Marlin Metcalf, Mark Peters, Richard Dyck, Brian Maxwell, Clayton Morgan, Dean North, Trevor Klassen, Mark Summers, Tracy Enns, Michelle Aldie, Sheena Nakonechney, Carly Boklaschuk, Kelly Dyck, Trish Middleton, Cor Lodder, Ashley Froese, Jenien Lodder, Jason Rheault, Ian Bergsma, and Dale Reimer

1. Call to order:

Marni Harrison called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm

2. Introductions:

Introductions were made by all in attendance

3. Approval of Agenda

Mark Peters moved to accept the March agenda as circulated – Jason Rheault Seconded – Carried

4. Community Reports:

Carman Handi Van- Submitted by Kathie Findlay

- As Attached

Community Futures Heartland – Submitted by Ken Reimer

- As Attached

Carman Wellness Connections- Submitted by Karen Tjaden

- As Attached

Director of Economic Development – Tyler King

- The Storefront Improvement Grant applications are due on Wednesday, March 10th. There have been many applications received to date.
- Carman Visitor's guide is in the process of printed and should be available in April.

Town of Carman – Richard Dyck

- Council and Management are working on the 2021 Financial Plan with a public hearing this week. The budget proposes a small increase in the mill rate so we can continue focusing on fixing street and sidewalks. It also includes the new solid waste pickup. However, the average tax bill will be reduced slightly as the tax base is increasing as we grow as a community.
- The MWM carts and bins along with instructions and schedules for waste pickup will be delivered shortly. They take over pickup effective April 1st.
- The new water treatment plant is coming along with a fill up of water scheduled by end of April. The Stephenfield Water Treatment Plant needs to complete their upgrade and we should be on their hookup in May.

RM Rep- Clayton Morgan – No Report

Carman and Dufferin Recreation- Sheena Nakonechny

- The CDR have not set a date for campground and swimming registration yet. More information on this should be available at the April meeting.
- The Recreation Department has been busy applying for grants this month.

5. Approval of Minutes:

Scott Johnston moved to accept the minutes of the February 9th, 2021 meeting as circulated- Kelly Dyck Seconded - Carried

6. Financial Report:

The balance in the ACU chequing account as March 9th, 2021 is \$16133.16. The Chamber buck account balance is \$9466.62.

Kelly Dyck moved to accept the March financial statement as presented. Mark Peters Seconded – Carried

7. Chamber Committee Reports:

Membership Committee:

The membership committee has met twice in 2021 and their focus thus far has been recruiting new members. To date, there have been 29 new members join the Chamber in 2021.

The committee will now focus on the ensuring value in the Chamber membership.

The next meeting of the membership committee will be held on Wednesday, March 17th at noon via zoom. Please let Marni or Jodi know if you would like to join this meeting.

Golf Committee:

The golf committee is in the initial planning stages of the annual Chamber Golf Tournament and the Pro-Am Golf Tournament which are set to take place respectively on June 24th and August 27th, 2021.

The committee is actively looking for sponsors for these tournaments.

Both tournaments will be held with Covid protocols in mind and tee times will be used this year instead of a shot gun start as in prior years.

If you are interested in joining the golf committee in planning these tournaments, please contact Kelly Dyck, Scott Johnston, Dean North or Jodi Winkler.

AGM:

The AGM will be held on Tuesday, April 13th at 12:00 noon via Zoom.

Meeting agenda and Zoom link will be sent out prior to this date. We hope that you will plan to attend.

8. President's Report- Marni Harrison

- March Report Attached

9. Executive Director's Report – Jodi Winkler:

- March Report Attached

10. Chamber Business Old and New

- Current Covid State- Still in Code Red. Looking forward to a lessening of restrictions with the next Public Health announcement.

11. Round Table Discussion

- The Boyne Book it Fun Run will take place virtually in June of 2021. More information on this fun event will be available in the coming days.
- Wheat and Waves will be adding yoga for mental health to their business starting on March 28th, 2021.
Register by visiting their website and registering. These sessions will take place in Ryall Park.
- Carman and Area Foundation will be hosting their Gala virtually this year. Watch for more information on this event that will take place on April 16th, 2021. The Area Foundation golf tournament will take place on June 11th at the Carman Golf Course.

12. Next Meeting – AGM- April 13th – followed by the monthly meeting

13. Motion made by Mayghan McEachern to adjourn the meeting at 12:25 pm

Carman Handi- Van Report

The Carman Handi-van is presently running Monday and Thursday from 9 – 4 plus one other day a week based on calls for rides. The telephone line is available Monday – Friday to book rides. There have been a number of trips to Boundary Trails and one to St. Boniface hospital. Today we received a call to transport someone from the Carman Hospital to Starbuck to receive the Covid19 vaccination.

We have applied for a Kin grant, but have not heard yet if we qualify for any funding. There have been a number of donations received since the beginning of the year. 8 local businesses have advertising panels on the handi-van. The funding sign is also a larger panel on the van, and that sign was a donation from Country Wood Signs (Donna Christen).

There are 2 spots on the driver side of the van for 2 more advertisers. If interested, please call Kathie Findlay at 745-2916 or email kfindlay@mts.net for information.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathie Findlay
Administrator
Carman Handi-van Corp.

Community Futures Heartland Report

Community Futures Heartland's mandate is to encourage entrepreneurship and small businesses in our region. We have 4 staff, and our office is located in Portage la Prairie, but meet clients in their community. We cover 13 RM's, which are; Stanley, Pembina, Roland, Thompson, Lorne, Dufferin, Grey, North Norfolk, Norfolk Treherne, Victoria, Westlake Gladstone, Glenella-Lansdowne, Alonsa, and the cities of Portage la Prairie, Winkler, Morden, and the Town of Carman.

We began our operations in 1993, and are funded through Western Economic Diversification. We have 13 board members and customize our activities to suit the local need.

New Business

1.) CF Offices are the conduit for the Regional Relief and Recovery Funds for the Federal Government. The RRRF are loans up to \$40,000 that have no repayment until January 1, 2023. If you repay 75% of the loan before December 31, 2022 then 25% of the loan is forgivable. A top-up of an additional \$20,000 is available with 50% of that being non-repayable. Apply on our website, www.cfheartland.ca

2.) Heartland has approved 40 COVID relief grants in our region for a total of \$40,000. Of that total, 5 grants for \$5,000 went to Carman and Dufferin organizations. Well done on getting the word out of this great opportunity.

Ken Reimer
Community Futures Heartland

Carman Wellness Connections Report

Carman Wellness Connections meets regularly to guide the efforts of our Working Groups. We are now an incorporated body and with the recent approval of our bylaws we are now applying to CRA to be recognized as a registered charity.

Thank you to MMJS Law Office for generously assisting us with preparing our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Thank you to Southern Health/Sante Sud for supporting our projects through the Healthy Living Together Grant, and Carman

Area Foundation for helping us access Emergency Community Support Funds in 2020, and DAS for continued support of emotional health programming. We are looking forward to our first annual meeting in June 2021!

Several of our Working Groups have been very active throughout the pandemic. Supporting Emotional Health Working Group recently completed two Art Therapy Sessions led by local artist and Art Therapist Chris Larsen, with 16 participants' total.

March programming will include the following via ZOOM:

- o An Art Therapy Session – 4 weekly classes in March

- o Making Sense of Alpha Children Program

- o Anxiety and Worry Support Program – hosted by Anxiety Disorders of

Manitoba (ADAM) Working Group is helping advertise and promote. Community Connections Support Line – continues to be available with the support of volunteers and will be reviewed in March to look at ways to increase usage.

With COMMON VISION: Together, creating a community where everyone has the opportunity and supports to flourish where they live, learn, work and play.

COMMON VALUES: Common values will guide our behavior, inspire our actions, and encourage conversation within every component of this community initiative. Empowerment Sustainability Accessibility Best Practice Respect

Shared Responsibility “Nothing about us, without us” “It takes a village” so many programs offered online, the Working Group is exploring ways to provide a lap top(s) for those who do not have internet or personal devices that allow them to participate. Many people do access the computers at the library but some of the emotional health programming requires more privacy than public computers allow.

Food Security Working Group is planning an additional Vegetable Stand for 2021 and is encouraging people to Grow a Row to share with their neighbours. We are excited to work with Carman Farmer's Market and Direct Farm MB to once again

bring the Community Food Currency Program to 12 households, providing \$21 every week to access fresh local produce at Carman Farmer's Market. Carman was one of only 5 locations in Manitoba to participate in the pilot program last year!

Plans are already underway to expand container gardening options for people who are new to gardening and have limited space and resources to start on their own. We look forward to building a Communications team and a Grants committee as we continue to grow and support the other Working Groups (Housing, Education/Employment, Access to Affordable Leisure, Transportation).

If you or your business are interested in learning more, please don't hesitate to contact us! We would love to explore how we can work together to reduce poverty and ensure everyone can participate fully in our community!

Karen Tjaden

Co-Chair (with Lisa Lehman), Carman Wellness Connections

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Presidents' Report – March 2021

And just like that it feels like spring.

Though I'll miss the river skates, I am much happier with the sun and heat than winter. Thanks again to everyone who played a part in making our town a great place to find outside activities over the past 4 months, before we know it there will be flags on the golf course!

We have had one of a two-part series on Instagram thanks to Community Futures Heartland for sponsoring Kaleigh Rae xo. If you missed the first session you can still catch up and join us for the next on March 10.

Executive is busy planning the year out, and we would like to provide more learning opportunities. If you have a suggestion for a topic/speaker, please let us know, we want the Chamber to provide value to you and your business and do require member input to make that a reality!

We do appreciate the engagement we have seen from membership over the past few months with attendance at our monthly meetings, referrals, social media shares, etc. Our AGM will be coming up shortly, and if you'd like to put your hand up to be a director, please let us know. Note – to be a part of a committee does not require you being a director – we'll take all the help we can get!

I look forward to the year ahead, however that may look and thank all of our local businesses for the extra efforts they have made through these continuing challenging times to provide service to the Carman area, you make our community fantastic!

Marni.

Executive Director Report – March 2021

I think the ground hog might be right! I can feel an early spring in the air!

Thank you for all of the Local Love that was shared this month.

I would like to highlight those that were sent to me.

- Kingdom Health and Athletics is a NEW business in Carman. Coel and Kim own and operate the Gym at 60 Main Street in Carman. They recently launched their “Carman’s Biggest Loser” competition and have many local businesses competing for this title! Covid restrictions have made it difficult for their Grand Opening, but they are now OPEN with restrictions and we look forward to the day when we can exercise “restriction free” in this great location.

- Toews Printing & Office Supply. Maxine at Toews Printing, is probably the kindest person that you may ever encounter. Her and her husband Marvin go above and beyond to be sure that all of your printing and office supply needs are met. They also have a wide variety of handmade items, available through consignment at their store. Toews is also the parcel hub in town and they have been very busy this past year, as online shopping was the gateway to non-essential items.

- Thank you all of our local Ag Businesses’ and Farms that make Carman and Area such a fantastic Ag Community.

- Carman Florist is evolving into a pretty cool little shop. This is a great destination shop and it won’t be long until we are sitting on the sidewalk café on a sunny day. For now, check out the food selection, it is great.

- Knockabouts has expanded their kids’ section so now all us grandparents have a new way to spoil our grandkids. Spring fashions will be arriving in March so keep in touch with them.

- At Walinga, business continues to remain strong, with a solid order book into 2021. As a company they have seen good market activity with recent orders from Western Canada, USA, Mexico, Ecuador, Italy, France, Australia, and many more. Their staff are thankful for the steady work, and the potential for new hires.

- Great White Tech Inc is a new company in Carman with an office in the Newman Hand Insurance building. Great White Tech sells security systems for residential and commercial clients. They also have a monitoring service for the system after installation. Dean Borst, one of the owners, is very knowledgeable and professional. Their system is terrific. It is ideal to customize the security system to your individual home or business. Their cost is reasonable and it is convenient to be able to control the system from your smartphone.

- At every season it is exciting to have Vanderveen’s Greenhouses in Carman – Easter Lilies, summer vegetables, flowers to beautify our yards, fall chrysanthemums and Christmas poinsettias. The access that we have to buy beautiful plants at reasonable prices at Vanderveen’s and Aubins Nursery is an extra perk of living in the Carman area.

- Nine Lives Fashions is OPEN and ready to help you dress for the whatever you may be keeping busy at these days. They carry beautiful clothing and accessories and are great for the environment as they reduce, reuse and recycle all your fashion needs. Nine Lives is the perfect place to shop for women, kids, grandkids and baby gifts too! Stop in today or contact them for a personal shopping experience

- Did you know that you can order amazing charcuterie from Bonappbox delivered to your door? Beautifully presented, tasty and abundant.

Boyne Regional Library is a true gem. Their recent renovation has been a huge asset to our community. The library’s programming, for both adults and children, is incredible and their “Take Home Tuesday” craft day is a highlight of the week for many youngsters in town. They are now reopened after revised Covid restrictions, so be sure to stop in and borrow your favourite book, movie, puzzle or game.

- Our “Burger King” celebrated an anniversary this month. Big Willy’s pizza is more than just great pizza!! Winner of the 1st annual Carman Burger Week, Big Willy’s serves up some delicious burgers. Although they aren’t always on the menu, he will treat us every once in a while and offer them for a limited time. Be sure to follow him on FB and Instagram, so you don’t miss out!

- Roseisle Community Grocery Co-op is a new member of the Chamber. Their daily soups and homemade baked goods, along with their bulk orders and selection of unique grocery products, make it worth the scenic trip to the quaint little community of Roseisle.

- After being closed to dine in service for 3 months, Chicken Chef Carman is now able to open their dining room and welcome you to come in and enjoy their delicious menu and top-notch service. Their amazing take out is also still available.

- CJ’s Cleaning & Detailing. Chocolates and Flowers are nice for your Valentine, but if you REALLY want to show your love, get their vehicle detailed!! No crevice is left untouched once Corey is finished!! Your vehicle will look and feel like NEW! Gift Certificates are available, so contact them TODAY to book your appointment! You will NOT be disappointed!

- Breakaway Family Restaurant and Lounge has been family owned and operated for the past 23 plus years! Be sure to check out their weekly features and follow them on Facebook for updates on re opening for dine in service. Try one of their daily features for Takeout today!

- O’Brien Built’s contributions made for everyone’s outdoor pleasure, does not go unnoticed! Many kids were saddened to see the old toboggan slide being taken down, but were super pumped when they saw the O’Brien team working hard at dusk to get the new one in. The skating benches along the river are awesome too! If it’s reality TV you are into, hard to find a better local Instagram page! Be sure to follow them on Facebook and Instagram and keep up with all of the projects that they have on the go!

- Crazy Lady’s Cafeteria and Take Out. Not only do they offer delicious German Cuisine, their soups and sandwiches are perfect for lunch on the go! Follow them on Instagram and FB to stay up to date on all that they have to offer.

We are so fortunate to live in a small town and have such great service locally!

The first Lunch and Learn session in our Instagram Management series was held on Wednesday, February 24th. Thank you to Community Futures Heartland for sponsoring Kaleigh Rae XO to provide these sessions for us.

The next session will be held on March 10th, 2021 and we would love for you to join us if you can. Shoot me an email if you would like to register.

Welcome to the new members that joined the chamber this month! Style By Milky, Leanne Doell Photography, Carman Dufferin Standard, Nails by Jolie, Bell Electric, Red Apple, Heidi's Home Design, Carman Area Foundation and Bell Aura Bed and Breakfast! We hope that you enjoy the benefits that the Chamber has to offer!

As we look to April, we hope that we see restrictions lessened, golf courses and ball diamonds open, and all businesses operating at a greater capacity.

I look forward to meeting in person very soon, and please remember that I am here to support you as we maneuver through the COVID-19 pandemic. If you have specific questions or needs please reach out.

Be well!

Sincerely,

Jodi Winkler

Executive Director

Carman and Community Chamber of Commerce