

Barrhead & District Chamber of Commerce General Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, November 18, 2021

Time: 12:00 noon

Location: VIA ZOOM

[ZOOM Nov General Mtng](#)

Passcode: C%6+ezrr

1. Call to Order : 12:03
2. Additions to the Agenda : none
3. Adoption of Agenda: Dustin
4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a) October Executive Meeting Minutes : Charity
 - b) October General Meeting Minutes : Charity
5. Business Arising from the Minutes - None
6. Speaker: Dr. Kent Bernes – Physician Shortage & Attracting Doctors to our Community
 - Lost several physicians over last couple years
 - Dr. Azzi leaving end of November, Dr. Hassan leaving end of January
 - Anesthesia doctors needed, full-time position open for past 3 years
 - 3 physicians are contracted this spring, 2 of which require a 3-month assessment before they can start- once they pass the assessment they can work as a doctor in our community (2022 spring anticipated start date), 3rd person is going to be offered a contract (2022 expected start)
 - College assessments are required for non-resident physicians which takes time
 - Ideal number of doctors in Barrhead would be 10 family, 2 GPA's, some GPO's, 1 surgeon, 1 gynecologist
 - Higher risk surgeries will still need to travel outside Barrhead for procedures
 - How can the chamber/community help to recruit new doctors? Help with incentives such as car leases, housing, promoting our community, growing our community economically, upgrade our hospital facility
 - Incentives now in place – cash incentive
 - We have not lost any physicians due to COVID vaccine requirements/mandates
 - Why doctors leave our community – other professional avenues for spouses, better education and opportunities available for their children, worship options
 - Impact of this shortage is huge on our remaining doctors, workload, and burnout when you have 5 doctors doing the job of 10

- May be an emergency room shutdown in December (service disruption) due to lack of doctors on call at the hospital
- There is no immediate option from AHS except to promote our community more by showcasing our specific rural area attractions
- Money talks, cash is king. Money incentive is the best incentive to retaining new doctors.

7. Financial Update – Michelle : skipped

8. Committee Reports

a) Advertising/Marketing -Dustin

-going forward with radio contract

-FB contest for \$150 to boost reflections, site likes and visits

-community boxes: products from businesses to sell, contact rose for more information or if you would like to participate

-voting in December to shorten our name to “Barrhead Chamber”

b) Economic Development – Megan

-community boxes working on this exciting project

-shop local campaign, grant money received and will be used for shop local cards

c) Membership – Dave

-New members have joined in today’s meeting!

d) Networking & Business Activities – Tracy - skipped

e) Charitable Activities (Festival of Trees, etc.) – Michelle -notice just went out about this event

9. Related Organizations – Updates

a) Business Support Network – Dave

-planning for end of the month strategies to tackle the unemployment issue and lack of skillsets required by businesses. 1st session November 25th – identifying

rural skills training, 2nd session December 16th – strategies on how to roll out rural training and upskill local workforce

-Alberta jobs now program - 2nd phase applications now initiated – grants for employee wages supplement for new hires. Can help hire more skilled employees by being able to offer them higher competitive wages. Google “Alberta jobs now program” to find out more and apply

-Feb 24 – Job fair, virtual event. Free to register! Great opportunity to recruit and connect with training providers and potential employees. Must pre-register.

Google “Career and Education Expo” to find out more and to register

10. Town of Barrhead Update

-Better in Barrhead website- please help with this initiative by advising events in our community

Polar Parade!! – December 10-starts at 6pm! This parade relies on the community spirit of individuals, groups, and businesses like yours to be a success. Help us bring this parade to life by entering a float with your favourite holiday movie theme.

Registration Deadline is December 3rd, 2021. [Click here to find our registration form](#), following the submission instructions on the form. Click here for the [Polar Parade 2021 Guidelines](#). Click here for more event information [Polar Parade \(betterinbarrhead.ca\)](#)

11. County of Barrhead Update

-working on budget

12. Other Business/Announcements

- Chamber of Commerce 2022 Board of Directors Elections

13. Next Meetings:

- a) General Meeting December 16, 2021 Via Zoom
- b) Executive Board Meeting December 8, 2021 Via Zoom

14. Adjourn Meeting - 1:00pm