

# MEETING MINUTES

GPCCA  
September 6, 2023  
6:30pm-7:45pm

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**Present:** Donna Becker, Matt Goodwin, Dan Duey, Cindy Brusch, Sharon Fritsch, KaCee Bloom, Tracy Mund.

**Introductions/Appreciations:** Introduced Donna to Cindy, everyone else knew each other.

Tracy thanked everyone for all the work they do to help keep things nice.

## **Old Business:**

Fire inspection/updates needed - KaCee said that the fire pre-inspection went well and there are not as many things to fix as she thought there might be. We need to purchase and emergency light that will go inside above the main entrance on the north side of the building. It must be capable of staying on for 90 minutes in the event of a power outage. KaCee found one on Amazon for \$22.88, and sent it to Tracy to purchase. Marvin dropped off Emergency Exit reflective signs that we need to make sure are installed above every exit. KaCee gathered the fire extinguishers to have them taken to Ontario. She found a company that will service them yearly and it is cheaper than us buying new ones every year. She will pick them up when they are ready and then they will put us on their annual service route, since they come to the area to service other fire extinguishers. KaCee said that the fire marshall said our maximum occupancy for an event is 300 people and we cannot have people in the upstairs mezzanine area or the basement during an event. During an event, all doors must be unlocked. Also, Marvin would like us to notify him two weeks prior to an event happening and let him know the estimated number of guests.

Building insurance update - Tracy said she has been in contact with our insurance agent, Matt Pidcock of Valley Insurance in La Grande. He is where we have our event liability insurance through with Alliance. Matt said he heard back from Alliance and they declined to offer property insurance on the building due to the brush fire hazard score from their underwriting process. Matt has an appeal into them, but has not heard back. He said if they stay the course and won't offer a property quote for us, we will have to send it out to a brokered market, or possibly the Oregon fair plan. Tracy explained to him how very unlikely that a brush fire would ever be able to reach the community center and if it ever did, then the whole town of Prairie would probably all be burnt down around it. He said he completely understood and had sent them screen shots from Google maps and the Oregon fire maps in with his appeal.

We discussed getting ahold of Bisnett again and seeing if they can help us.

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## **Old Business, continued:**

Basement door and plywood for basement stairs on stage - Tracy brought up that we should plan to get the stage stairwell covered up before we host anymore events. Sharon said she would get Mark on fixing the door and the stairs.

Stage lights - no one is 100% sure what is needed to fix the stage lights. Sharon is working on a grant to fix them, so we will hold off on getting that done. We will let users know that they do not work and they may need to provide lighting for their event, if they want the stage lit up more.

Christmas lights - the Christmas lights are falling down. We all agreed that we need to just take them down and look at purchasing better lights that possibly would be more permanent and good for a variety of holidays/events.

KaCee passed around a bundle of thank you cards for us to sign, so she can get them delivered.

**Town Business:** Donna Becker joined the group tonight to discuss the planters downtown and the memorial trees. In 1997, new planters were put in up and down Front Street, and people purchased memorial trees to be planted in honor of loved ones. There was never really a determination of who would be responsible for their long-term maintenance. When first purchased, each of the families and some community members handled care and maintenance. Recently, a tree was taken out (due to roots causing issues with ADA compliant sidewalk corner) and there is talk of others being taken out. There have also been some restrictions on watering the blacktop trees and discussion of them being taken out, as well. Members in attendance all agreed that the trees and planters really keep our downtown looking nice, and we should help keep our downtown inviting to community members and visitors. Donna and Sandy Murray are planning on going to the City Council meeting on September 13th at 6:00pm and would like as many GPCCA members to join in support of coming up with a plan with the City to maintain the trees and planters. Please attend the meeting if you are able and would like to.

**Facilities:** Jerry was not able to attend the meeting, but wanted to let us know that he sprayed herbicide on the Virginia Creeper – at the bottom of the ramp, and a strip along the E sidewalk from the notice board to the bus stop. He said it is safe for persons and pets when dry.

Jerry also said he could possible pull lights down off the building with his tallest ladder and pole pruner.

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**AV Updates:** Dan presented us with his ideas for our sound system. He said he has some equipment that he rarely uses, that he thinks would work great and would be more user friendly for people wanting to use the building. He has a snake, recording board, and amps that would go on the stage. We all thought these sounded nice, but Tracy did mention that we want to consider the look of having extra amps on the stage during certain events. Dan said they could be easily moved around. He will do some looking into what he thinks will work best, and discuss with Jef.

**Treasury Report:** Tracy updated the group on our finances. We all agreed that we need to work on having more fundraisers, after spending money on improvements this year.

**Secretary Position:** Tracy would like to step down from the Secretary position. That way she has more time to focus on the Treasury position, volunteering for our events, and handling her personal business and family.

We did not have anyone volunteer for the new position, but it was discussed that maybe Marie would be a good fit. If anyone is really interested, please let us know.

**Grant Updates:** Sharon said that she had a letter of inquiry for the Oregon Community Foundation grant of \$25,000 and the Ford Family Grant. There is a \$5,000 grant that we have qualified for, but we need to have proof of building insurance.

Sharon also sent letters out to businesses for a fundraiser, asking if they would like to donate to become honored donors. She will make a plaque listing all of the donors, plus other donors that have given labor and lumber to projects.

**Events:** Community Potluck - Tracy brought up that she had been told that the CyberMill is planning a one year event from their grand opening (on or around October 17th). She had been asked if the Community Center might want to be involved or have something the same night. We discussed having an event if it were to be the weekend following the 17th.

Wedding Rental - Jesse Jones and Alli Rebensdorf have rented the building October 12th-13th for their wedding. Tracy has been assisting them with any questions they have.

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**Events:** Bingo night, hay rides - Deborah is interested in having an event with hay rides on October 21st with apple cider and chili dogs. We had discussed having a bingo night, but think that would work better on a different night. Deborah was unable to attend the meeting, so we will have to get more updates from her later on.

Halloween movie/cookie decorating or movie/date night? We discussed having a Halloween movie like last year. KaCee said cookie decorating probably wasn't a great idea, because a lot of the toppings we provided last year were thrown in the garbage. We will look into a good time for a movie.

KaCee also thought a movie/date night for adults might be a great idea.

Veteran's Day Dinner - Kylee Zyrkle is planning on putting on a Veteran's Day Dinner. Tracy will send Sharon a user agreement for her to give to Kylee to fill out.

Christmas on the Prairie - will be November 18th this year. We need to get a meeting date set for the committee and local businesses.

Opera Idaho and Spring Bridal Show - will have to wait to hear from Deborah on her plans for these.

New Years Eve - an event to occur along with town fireworks has been discussed.

Holiday Fundraiser - KaCee said that we could get cookie dough from Costco to sell. We will have to have someone look into selling the Tillamook jerky.

**Other Business:** Didgette McCracken, with the CyberMill, sent Tracy an email regarding an EOCCO Community Benefit Initiative Reinvestment Grant Program. She said they have noticed that our town has a need for a place for kids to hang out during the day (during the summer). And she wondered if the community center might be interested. As a group, we decided not to apply for the current grant, but Tracy will send out the information from Didgette and if anyone is interested, maybe something in the grant would be a good fit for next spring.

Next Meeting: October 4, 2023 @ 6:30pm