**CommUnity Team**

March 6th 2024

AJ’s Riverside

Members Present: Chris Kalupa, Sue Trampf, Barry Abbott, Bobbie Erdmann, Tim Ludolph, Marie Reilly, Karen Winkel-Dishong, Benjamin Hinz, and Allison Gohlke

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 A.M. by Tim Ludolph.

The February 7th meeting notes were reviewed. Erdmann motioned to approve the minutes subject to a couple of corrections and Kalupa seconded the motion which passed by voice vote.

For the general goals for the group discussion Ludolph stated the four points of Main Street would be distributed as food for thought about this organization and Berlin’s needs.

Sue Tramp gave an update about the ABC Group’s efforts to plan the July 3rd Let Freedom Ring. They have settled on the acts starting with the Del Rays, then Fork in the Road and concluding with Bad Habits. A major element of the planning is making sure to have kid and adult oriented activities. The ABC group had an appreciation party for Volunteers, a 6 PM program with drawings.

Karen Winkel-Dishong gave an update about Advocap’s programming including finances for education including skilled trades and nursing. They are grappling with the shortage of affordable housing throughout the Winnebagoland region and have put together a committee to join capital and volunteers to better address these issues. They are always looking for community events to help with local issues such as hunger and eviction.

Ben Hinz gave an update about Farmers & Merchants Bank. This institution is planning the community week to occur sometime after May, through the summer. They also are looking to provide some educational programming to help people build their credit.

Marie Reilly gave an update on Berlin Community Development Corporation activity with the news they have been busy helping commercial tenants find places to do business. There is expected to be an Olive Oil and Artisan Cheese shop to open next month as well as a Sporting Goods and Repair. Cor’Nutrition is moving from the Core Energy building to downtown with an opening date of a hopeful April 1st. 120 N Brooklyn St is planned to have a gourmet mushroom shop. Again, the City has offered a TID matching grant to help with facades and roofs downtown to work well with the BCDC Revolving Loan.

Barry Abbott gave an update about the Berlin Boat Club including there was to be a meeting on March 7th at the Bowling Alley. There had been a press release to try to recruit concerned members of the community to help keep the group going. Eureka Landing has been working with the Club to have a Jet Ski raffled. They have been struggling with the water levels as consistently low as they have been the past few years. However, the locks are set up to work as usual the next several years, the concern is beyond that.

Allison Gohlke gave an update on the Berlin Area School District events. On Saturday the 9th they had the BHS Softball Pancake Breakfast at the VFW Hall.

Tim Ludolph shared the Berlin Farmer’s and Artists market launched their own messaging platform. They had also finalized their [music lineup](https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=859808552614150&set=a.636734151588259) in February.

Karen Winkel-Dishong updated the Boy’s and Girl’s Club will be having the Community Clothes Closet event coming up as well as Wearing and Sharing the Green.

Tim Ludolph updated the group on City’s discussions of TID 16 and the changing of some street names.

Tim Ludolph gave an update on the Green Lake Country Group’s recent discussions on renaming to Greater Green Lake Visitors Bureau with rebranding and strategic planning to take place. The Social Media endeavors continue and groups are encouraged to reach out to the Bureau with events.

Bobbie Erdmann gave an update on the Berlin Area Historical Society. Nominations are open for people to be added to the Inspiration wall. People should apply at the library and or as stated on the BAHS website. Two or more honorees will be chosen each year. [Guidelines for Nominating a Person](http://berlinareahistoricalsociety.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Guidelines_for_Nominating_a_Person_for_the_Be_Proud.pdf) + [Nomination Form](http://berlinareahistoricalsociety.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Nomination_Form.pdf)

The Berlin Museum is open starting Memorial Day weekend and then the second and fourth Sundays in June, July and August from 1 to 4 p.m.

Chris Kalupa gave an update on the Elf Extravaganza event; the group is looking for volunteers as it plans to meet and strategize pulling off another event.

Chris Kalupa gave an update on the 9th annual Quilt Show, winners to be announced March 19th and Quilts on display until March 22. The Friends of the Library’s book sale is ongoing. The Summer Reading program will be emphasizing adventure into the community. They are currently digitizing yearbooks and newspapers in a searchable format for easier public access. [March 2024 Newsletter](https://www.berlinlibrary.org/sites/berlinlibrary.org/files/2024%20March%20Newsletter.pdf) included in the minutes.

Sue Trampf reported the Lion’s Club Rose Sale is planned for Friday and Saturday may 10th – 11th at the Farmer’s and Merchant’s Bank and the Berlin Oil Shell. They are exploring giving out scholarships. There may be a forthcoming Vision Screening event with details to be determined. With the help of the Van Dyne club, two pairs of glasses were distributed to children in need.

The group discussed how Parks and Recreation Commission was meeting on March 6th and the Save the Pool group discussions were ongoing.

Tim Ludolph explained the Senior Center [March 2024 Insight Newsletter](https://cityofberlin.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/40/2024/02/March-INSIGHT.pdf) will be included in the minutes.

Tim Ludolph gave an update the Travel and Tourism Commission will meet in April and is encouraging all civic groups with events or projects that could generate overnight stays to check out the grant program.

The next meeting of the CommUnity Team is scheduled for Wednesday April 3rd 10 AM at Baked: Cakes by Design.

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 AM