

CommUNITY Team

April 2, 2025, 10:00

Berlin Public Library

Present: Marie Reilly, Tim Ludolph, Matthew Stepniewski, Chris Kalupa, Emmett Durtschi, and Sue Trampf

#1 The CommUNITY Team meeting was called to order at 10:04AM by Chris Kalupa.

#2 & #3 - Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

Motion to approve the agenda: Reilly 1st, Stepniewski 2nd, motion approved through a voice vote.

Motion to approve February 5th minutes: Trampf 1st, Reilly 2nd, motion approved through a voice vote.

#4 - Discussion and updates from civic groups, organizations, city departments, etc.

Ludolph (City) – Elections were held yesterday with a good turn out for the City. Tim is working on some TIF grants and with some new and potential businesses. He encouraged everyone who can come to the new business ribbon cuttings, as the turnout has sometimes been low. The next new business to welcome will be El Pariente Mexican Store located at 104 E Huron St., with more details to follow by email.

Trampf (ABC Group) – they will be hosting a volunteer appreciation get together on Saturday, May 10 to thank those who have helped make the events and group successful. The July 3rd event, Let Freedom Ring, plans have begun. She mentioned that the band cost has increased significantly, and all donations are appreciated. The ABC group will be sponsoring the June 17 Farmers Market food.

Trampf (Lions group) – At their May meeting new officers will be installed by the District Governor. They will be having their Mother's Day Rose sale on May 9 & 10, with roses being \$20/dozen. They have 200 dozen roses ordered. Steak fry's will begin in June.

Stepniewski (Farmers & Merchants Bank) highlighted that Farmers is celebrating the 85th anniversary of the bank. They have a goal of doing 85 projects in the Berlin community. They have a customer appreciation event in the bank lobby on April 2. In honor of Financial Literacy Month in April, they will be doing special events at the Berlin Public Library. On Wednesday, April 9, a F&M employee will be doing storytime and on Wednesday, April 23 they will be doing 2 programs at the library on Cybersecurity at 1 and 6pm. They are also collecting for the Community Food Bank.

Reilly (BCDC) talked about the 2 new businesses will be opening soon in town – a sporting goods store with live bait, and a Mexican grocery store. Both stores will have ribbon cuttings soon. Marie reminded everyone that El Charro's does profit sharing for groups. One other possible new business is a laser printing shop. Wingate Barraclough is selling 7 buildings. If interested, contact Marie. The Lion Corporation is going to be expanding, They produce Fire Dept. protective gear.

Kalupa (Library) National Library Week is April 7-12, with lots of fun programming throughout the week. Farmers & Merchants bank is sponsoring the prize wheel prizes, which will be on Wed. & Fri. Next month, we will host a Diaper/Diaper Wipes Drive in the month of May. There will also be a Photography Contest with submissions being accepted until May 27. Two winners will be selected by patron votes and the winners will be among a county-wide contest and they will be

displayed at the GL County Fair. The library will again be hatching baby chicks beginning May 28, set to hatch about June 17. A reminder that the meeting rooms are available for individuals and groups, which are free to non-profit groups and minimal fees for for-profit organizations.

Durtschi (Berlin Schools) They are preparing for budget cuts, including some staff. They have an open position for a Community Education & Recreation Coordinator. The school coordinates swimming programs, which includes summer & private lessons. Private parties are available for a charge. There is online registration is available for signing up for lessons. They are looking at updating the Ropes Course. Also, in the works is to sell the Hunter Pond parcel. Waushara St. property might be sold in the future, but not now.

The school is hosting the Missoula production of Rumpelstiltskin. Winter sports did very well, and Spring sports will be starting soon. Summer School will be held for 3 weeks in June.

Dr. Durtschi invited everyone to check out their new website, which also includes a mobile friendly app. They will be including Berlin Community information as well.

#5 CommUNITY Team direction, leadership & future

The group discussed the future of the CommUnity, with no definite decision made. Talking points were: What is the purpose of the group? What is the goal? (to connect community and businesses) To keep community communication positive and spread helpful news. A quote was received from the Berlin Journal to spread CommUnity news, which was quoted as an ad. Seeing as that the group has no financial income, this was not a viable option.

Also an important purpose of the group was to get the word out about new business ribbon cuttings, which has been poor at times.

#6 & #7 – Old & New business

None.

#8 Next Meeting date/location

The next meeting will be on May 7, location to be determined.

#9 Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Kalupa 1st, Reilly 2nd, motion approved through a voice vote.