

BIG BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MEETING 09/11/2025

Call to order: 6:00 pm, Katheran noted to all present, make sure everyone in attendance has signed in, members will be checked with current membership dues list, members in good standing are allowed one ballot/vote at the close of the meeting, officers/directors will be posted to the chamber website by the close of business Friday 09/12/2025, all change of chair articles/info shall change hands over the next 5 business days.

Directors present: Katheran Crawford, Karen Drinkard, Chris Tschacher, Mike Minnick, Mackenzie Brooks, Donnie Daniels

Members present: Shawn Shields, Dale Weiss, Alison Weiss, Barbara Trammell, Carolyn Small, Becky Krisher, Steven Cape, Sara Allen Calandro, Peter Cary, Melissa Bent, Alye Wright, Jonathen Lavergue, Chris Gockel, Zach Johnson, Kaci Kothmann, Kara Gerbert, Amanda Johnson, R. Schellugh, Alex Manona, Devon Free, Hunter Lane, Amy Law, Montie Mudd

Presentation of minutes: The minutes for the previous meeting were emailed to the board, no changes were made

President report: Katheran reported that this years board had a lot of turnover from president and treasurer, the voting of tonight's meeting will match each membership and can be disclosed publicly, change of chairs will be effective within the next two business weeks, HOT budget was approved for same total as last year (\$45,000.000) for the year, Amy's term was up this September

Big Bend National Park: Steven (chief ranger) reported that visitation is up from last year, Santa Elena Road (route 16) is closed due to flooding, road to hot springs is closed to vehicles but is accessible by foot, Old Ore road is impassable, no closure to basin until May 2026,

latest updates are on website, rooms are available, there is no dining but the food truck is open and delicious

Big Bend Ranch State Park; Alex reported they hired a new office manager, they are looking to hire seasonal customer service representative, and a heavy machinery operator which can be viewed online, accepting donations for online auction (see their website for more details), they are having a Public Land Day and clean up on 09/27 (see website for information and sign up), 10/07 guide symposium (information on website), they are still working on the boat ramps but are trying, on Friday mornings on social media (both Face Book and Instagram) there is a love interactive chat for anyone to join in and ask questions

Membership report: 74 more members, 2 big events take place in December and January, December is Santa on the porch/Mingle and Jingle, Gala takes place in January, next month's meeting will start planning the events committee for the gala, Katheran wants to try and get as many local business involved in the gala as possible, any member in good standing can be on the events committee, "Chamber Chatter" newsletter will be written up after this meeting for new updates, check for TFEMS to make up the difference of donations to match last year will be presented to TFEMS at Firemen Ball in October

Tourism/BBCC Building Progress: no new updates except that Aramark no longer wants to lease the land, they want to sell so the progress is stalled

Funds request: Becky Kaye representing Brewster County Musicians/Terlingua Musicians is hosting "Dancing in the Dirt" this weekend 09/12-14 including local musicians as well as out of town musicians, she is asking for \$3,000.00 for the three days for the entertainment and music. Alye Wright is asking for \$2,500.00 for advertisement, decorations, food, music for a haunted house hosted at the Community Center 10/23-10/25 and also a trunk or treat and other activities involving local business, Karen motions to use HOT funds for both events, Donnie seconds, all in favor, Chris abstains, motion carries, Alye provided funds request to the board, Kaci Kothmann previously requested and was given monies for Big Bend Wildlife and

Wine Festival, she had some outstanding balances for event advertisement, she was requesting a check for the balance tonight but since new treasurer needs to be on the banking account this was unable to happen, Map It Out was asking about the balance due although there was some inquiry on why our logo wasn't on some of the maps, this will be discussed further

New Business: Officer Director Election Introductions, all nominees are given a few minutes to introduce themselves at the meeting. President nominee Donne Daniels, resident for 8 years, owns Road House Rental and Angel Fire Creations, wants to help local business and the community, he helped by stepping up and joining the board temporarily after other board members quit, Vice President nominee Shawn Shields, resident since 2012, started her business Emory Peak Service, joined the chamber around 2019 as social media consultant, Katheran wanted to be transparent that the VP position and all other board member positions are not paid but social media consultation, web master, and all advertisement takes time and materials which no one should be expected to do for free, Treasurer nominee Katheran Crawford, 7 year resident, served as Vice President last year but stepped up into president due to previous president resignation, her background is in bookkeeping for many years and is what she is trained to do, she wants to upgrade the current system and stream light it more efficiently, Director nominee Alison Weiss, resident since 2012, she is involved with BBKA, library project, Visit Big Bend state fair and wants to be involved in the community, Director nominee, Mackenzie Brooks, 5 year resident, owner of Rio Grande Lemonade, partners with Palo Verde Printing, she stepped in as temporary director when the board was short directors due to resignations, Director nominee, Mike Minnick, lived here in 2011 but then left for a few years and returned full time about 2 years ago stating he never found anyplace like Terlingua, owns Temple of the Bird and started a hostel in the area, stepped up to be a director when board was short due to sudden resignations, Director Nominee, Becky Kaye, resident off and on since 2014, full time last 4 years, trained as a speech language pathologist and is very interested in helping the community, Director Nominee Rietef from Willow Creek, new member to the community but is willing to help out in any way and happy to be available.

Ballots: Ballots were passed out to all members present with the nominees written, all positions with the exception of Karen Drinkard, current secretary who's term is not up this year and Chris Tschacher, current board member who's term is not up, votes were counted and the following were appointed new board members by 20 plus votes; Donnie Daniels (President), Shawn Shields (Vice President), Katheran Crawford (Treasurer), Alison Weiss (Director), Mackenzie Brooks (Director), Mike Minnick (Director),

Next meeting- Thursday, October 9, 2025, 6:00 pm, Red Patillo Center, Study Butte

Meeting adjourned: 7:17 pm