BIG BEND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

OCTOBER, 09, 2025 MEETING
Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm

Board Members Present**:** Katheran Crawford, Donnie Daniels, Shawn Shields, Chris Tschacher, Alison Weiss, Mike Minnick, Karen Drinkard

Board Members Absent: Mackenzie Brooks
Members and Guests present: Becky Krisher, LaNetta Barnes, Alye Wright, Alex Darschewski, Omar Udave, Bill Gilles, Kathy Gilles, Dale Weiss

Prior to the start of the meeting, the computer was set up for Zoom as Mackenzie was going to be joining us virtually however there was some technical problems so Donnie told Mackenzie he would call if there was an issue, a phone call was made to Mackenzie at 6:03 after all present were signed in, there was no answer, Donnie started the meeting noting Mackenzie would join when she called back.*

Presentation of July Minutes: Because there was no meeting in August due to quorum, the minutes were never approved, July minutes were distributed at this meeting and all had the opportunity to read them, Shawn made a motion to approve July minutes, Karen seconds, all in favor, July minutes approved, the minutes from September meeting were distributed and all had the opportunity to read them, Chris motions to approve September minutes, Shawn seconds, September minutes approved.
President Report: Donnie started the meeting by introducing himself, as well as the new board, since this is the first meeting as being president, Donnie Daniels (president), Shawn Shields (vice president), Katheran Crawford (treasurer), Karen Drinkard (secretary), Chris Tschacher (member), Alison Weiss (member), Mike Minnick (member), Mackenzie Brooks (member), he attended the tourism meeting with Judge Hennington and HOT came up, we are not correctly following the bylaws on spending HOT funds, BBCC needs to be more diligent and strict on following HOT fund usage and qualifying events, some ideas were discussed about trying to keep count of tourists attending events reimbursed by HOT or wristbands to use around the community to entice local spending at different businesses, this being said some funds request approved at last month's meeting need to be corrected to the appropriate accounts, Shawn motioned to move the $2,500.00 for the approved Halloween event reimbursement from Membership account to HOT account, Alison seconds, all on favor, motion approved.
Treasurer Report: Katheran reported she has been rectifying Quick Books and trying to get it set up and user friendly, as of September 30, HOT account is $6,820.00 and Membership account is $20,370.62. There are currently 102 members with 67 paid and 4 honorary, Katheran provided a printed sheet with all members, outstanding members will be directly approached by board members who know the point of contact of these businesses, regarding the balance due for Terlingua Wine and Wildlife event (Kaci asked for funds in 2025 for the event and was approved for $2,200.00 in printed advertisement with BBCC and Visit Big Bend logo on them,

she brought invoices totaling $1,269.00 and was given a check in that amount, then added another invoice from Palo Verde printing for $412.43 and a check was cut for that amount, no radio advertisement was approved for the event from BBCC).
Social Media Report: Shawn presented a report which was passed out to all present showing the growth of BBCC social media activity, all SM is growing organically and we have not paid for any followers, she would like to start a budget committee for sponsored advertisement on social media, this will be discussed further
BBRSP: Representatives from the state park were present and distributed a sheet of upcoming events for October, there are some closures due to hunting in marked places which is also available on their website, they still have job opportunities posted on website and Face Book, the website is also equipped with a live QR code.
BBNP: The park sent an email since no representatives were present at meeting stating it is open with essential employees, trail heads and bathrooms are clean, trash is being maintained. all trails are scheduled to remain open as long as the public keeps the area clean with no trash or littering, maintained and border patrol are essential as well as military presence still on site.

Public Input: LaNetta Barnes presented her fund request for the 35th annual "Pea Off"" scheduled for 01/01/2026 in the Ghost town, she presented a detailed request for funds using HOT for advertisement in the Big Bend Avalanche, Big Bend Sentinel, L&L Distribution to post in Terlingua, Study Butte, Lajitas, Alpine, Fort Davis and Marathon, promotional/resale stickers, posters and printing all with BBCC logo on all printable items, detailed in request from membership account is trophies, cornbread mixes/sundries, and personal serving bowls and other items, she is requesting $1,100.00 from HOT and $270.00 from membership all to reimburse her, Katheran motions to approve spending, Chris seconds, all in favor, motion is approved, Karen presented a fund request for the Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend for financial aide in their annual Thanksgiving community dinner held November 20,2025 at the Family Crisis Center, they currently cannot get any turkeys from the food bank this year, the event is served annually and provides a full dinner for the entire community at no charge, it is estimated that over 150 families attend the event, they are requesting $1,000.00 for turkeys and other food items needed to continue this tradition, Katheran motions to approve spending the money from membership for the event with the chance to review the items needed list to see if she can get in touch with food distribution and try to get a better deal or discount, Alison seconds, all in favor, motion is approved.
Committee reports

Quick Books updated: Katheran is still trying to organize QB but is having troubles with online payment, invoices can go out automatically however members cannot pay online, it might need an upgrade, this will be moved to next month's old business

Events committee: Mingle and Jingle- Shawn would like to merge event with BBCA and utilize other local businesses such as the community gardens, making it more of a community event, tentatively 12/13 she will get back via email, Alison is now the chair of the event committee and needs volunteers to help with event, discussion was made about the annual gala and pros and

cons were made, Alison motions to not do the gala this year and see how the community reacts, Karen seconds, all in favor, motion is approved, will discuss more next meeting, Marketing/Advertisement: Shawn mentioned our last big advertisement was BBMT magazine, the ad is scheduled to print end of October, Shawn made business cards with QR codes to hand out at state fair using her own money, Katheran motions to reimburse Shawn $71.42 from HOT, Alison seconds, Chamber Chatter newsletter was discussed, we haven't had much response in it, there is one more free trial so Shawn will write one more up before we decide if we want to continue it,

New Business: Donnie would like all board members to reread the bylaws and come back next meeting to discuss, CASI needs gate volunteers for Saturday 11/01/2025 from 7:30am -3:30 pm two person per shift two hour shifts, a sign up sheet is being distributed, 7:30 Katheran, 1:30 Alison and Dale committed to so far, CASI hands out shirts and drinks to the volunteers, Donnie also mentioned to the board members for a homework assignment to think about. benefits for the members, including starting up the "Community Spotlight" event again to support and bring attention to all out local businesses which we serve

Donnie motions to adjourn meeting at 7:15, Karen seconds, all in favor, meeting adjourned

Next month's meeting: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2025 @ 6:00- PATILLO CENTER STUDY BUTTE