* + 1. **WyCB Board Meeting:**

President Cheryl called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm

Roll call: Present-President Cheryl Godly, Treasurer Tom Smyth, Secretary Sarah Sexton, Directors- Robin Lowen, Debra Thompson, Sharon Byers, Sherry Leinen, and Bonnie Harrison. Absent- Vice President Gary Olson, Director Linda Woodruff.

* Cheryl noted that Gary was trying to join and needed the number. Debra hopped off the call to get that information to Gary.
* Minutes for November 2024: Sharon motioned to accept the minutes as presented and Tom seconded the motion.
* Treasurer’s Report: Tom noted that he ran out of toner on the printer he uses; he asked for reimbursement for the toner he had to purchase . Sarah made a motion to reimburse Tom. Robin seconded the motion. The motion carried.
* Please see the document that Tom sent out for details of the treasurer’s report
* Gary and Debra joined during Tom’s report.
* Gary motioned to accept the treasurer’s report. Sharon seconded the motion. The motion carried. .
* Tom noted that one of the CDs will be maturing and rolling over on 12-26-24 and wanted to inform us all of that development. He wanted to make sure the board was in agreement to simply let it roll over instead of accessing the funds.
* Gary made a motion to allow the CD to roll over. Tom seconded the motion. The motion carried.
* Old Business:
  + Tom spoke with Annette about photos from the convention and getting them up on the website.
  + Photos and bios from the board- Debra, Sarah, Gary, and Robin have submitted their photos and bios to Anette.
  + Tom checked the WyCB website for photos of white cane day; he was not able to see any photos from this event.
  + Cheryl will call Annette to check on progress of this.
* Sightings: Articles need to start coming in for our February publication.
  + Tom will do a write up about the luncheon in Casper.
  + Sarah will do a write up about the NrAER conference
  + Sarah suggested that we run a continual article about dog guide usage, the trials and tribulations of it, and also intermittently run an article from the point of view of the dog.
  + Cheryl suggested opening it up to include white cane users.
* Support Groups:
  + Casper: Info is up on our website. Two issues have been brought up in this group: one is the placement of large boulders in the middle of the sidewalk in various locations in Casper. These could be terribly confusing to those travelling with a white cane. Another issue being discussed is a dangerous intersection. The issue of public transit is also being talked through.
  + Buffalo : Dr. Johns joined our group in November; he spoke about macular care.
  + Sheridan: Sarah spoke with Abby Johnson Taylor about the support group she used to run in Sheridan; Abby reported that it was largely unsuccessful and thus she stopped facilitating it. Cheryl noted that it would be great for Abby and Linda to meet up and go from there.
  + Powell: Gary and Robin have attended this group, which is hosted by Tom Lealos.
  + Bonnie stated that she would look into strumming up support and interest for a low vision group in Cheyenne
* Scholarships: Debra updated Annette on the change in how WyCB is doing scholarships; Cheryl noted that we need to make sure that it is clear that the application can be applied for each year and is totally open, in relation to the date of application. Sherry will be working on this with Debra.
* Cheryl noted that WyCB needs to get the scholarship information up to date and posted on the Casper college website so that it is accessible to the students that may need it.
* Grant Fund Usage:
  + Photo Gallery for the website
  + WyCB Logo Update- one logo is modeled after ACB’s logo, the other is the WyCB logo with Braille on the left side of it.
  + After some discussion, a motion was made by Robin to keep the logo as it is. Sherry seconded the motion. The motion carried.
* Social Media: Sarah stated that she did not share the WyCB scholarship page because it was not current. Debra agreed to let Sherry and Sarah know when that is updated so that it could be shared on Facebook.
  + Cheryl inquired about how many followers we have. Sherry reported that we have 187 followers.
* Archiving: All things WyCB does need to be forwarded on to Annette so that she can post it to our website.
* WyDOT: Sarah reported that she is pressing on with attempting to communicate with WyDOT. Sherry noted the same struggle when she tackled this issue a while back.
* New Business:
  + The Mick in Casper contacted Tom to inquire about how to make their museum exhibits more accessible for people who are low vision, blind, and/or hard of hearing/deaf.
  + Cheryl met with the person leading this idea; Cheryl gave her several ideas which will be brought to their board.
  + This idea is in it’s infantile stages but those developing the idea are very excited.
* Natrona Collective Health Trust Luncheon: Tom and Cheryl attended. Sixty people representing various non-profits were there. Both Tom and Cheryl enjoyed this experience and were glad to be invited.
* Casper Mountain Survey: Bonnie used Survey Monkey to gather information about people’s opinion on a retreat at Casper Mountain.
  + Bonnie suggested from the survey results that a team building weekend retreat be planned.
  + Cheryl suggested that Bonnie contact Leslie at VOS for help in reaching the older , newly blind population; Cheryl also suggested she contact Vocational Rehabilitation.
* Letter of Support for the Older Blind Fund: Sarah reported that Leslie had supplied very helpful information. Leslie suggested that we not ask for more funding right now but that instead we need to be showing why the government should not cut the programs that currently exist. Building a case for why these programs should still exist is going to be our biggest strength; Sarah has reached out to ACB about what they might be doing.
* Gary suggested that Sarah reach out to Stephanie Jensen.
* Cheryl is wondering if she should ask what the Natrona Collective Health Trust can do for WyCB moving forward. She has a meeting with them soon.
* Cheryl is thinking of asking for some funding for a Zoom platform so that people can join support groups virtually.
* Transit Issue in Casper: The problem persists and Cheryl has enlisted the help and support of SILK and Wyoming Independent Living. A plan of action is being formed. The concern is now that Casper Area Transit is owned by the city, that enacting change will be very challenging.
* Informational pamphlets about various types of vision loss and blindness: how can WyCB get ahold of these items at a reasonable/free cost. Robin stated that she would look into various agencies to see who could supply this information to us.
* Fundraising: Annette has suggested we attempt to do a competitive fundraiser via PayPal.
* Sarah expressed concern about using PayPal.
* Cheryl would like us all to brainstorm fundraising ideas.

In a letter to Cheryl, Tom Lealos shared an idea he has: he would like to start a project where local businesses and community members are educated and encouraged to hire those who are low vision or blind, with WyCB taking the lead on this.

* + Most opinions on this were not in support of taking on such a huge project
  + During our next meeting in January, a section of this letter will be read to the board.
  + Our next meeting is Jan. 13, 2025 at 6 pm.
  + The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.