

Hotchkiss Community Chamber of Commerce  
Minutes from regular meeting Feb. 1, 2012

Attending: Katie Gnauck, Katherine Colwell, Tom Wills, Nathan Sponseller, Bill Long, Joanne Tullis, Debbie Pennington Shaffer, Elaine Brett, Marsy Moore, Dan Miller, Rhonda Duclo.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 by president, Nathan Sponseller.

A motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting was made by Gnauck and seconded by Moore. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was given showing a balance in the checking account of \$4434.85 and in the special projects of \$6977.02. The motion was made by Tullis and seconded by Gnauck to approve the report. Motion carried.

Corresponding secretary report - We now have 47 members. (10 nonprofit and 2 individual in that amount) We will be sending a 2<sup>nd</sup> membership notice later in the month. Working on a master list of members for all three chambers. At the end of March businesses that have not renewed their memberships will be removed from the website business directory. Everyone is encouraged to send in photos of their business and/or logos. The Ride the Rockies web page is being drafted and will be live Saturday night. Summaries of Heart and Soul and upcoming events will be on the Hotchkiss Chamber Home page.

The North Fork Valley website will have Heart and Soul information and a job description for the director. Colwell is on the job search committee. There will also be an Orton Foundation Link. Marilyn Tate and Kathy McKee have been very helpful in providing photos and information for the history page.

Presentations: Tullis & Brett talked about the Creative District. They are applying for an \$8000 grant for tech assistance. They are asking the Chamber for a letter of support. The Delta County Tourism Cabinet is the lead on this. The governor is behind the project. It will help economics, promotion and education the first year. Duclo moved, Colwell seconded, the motion that Sponseller write a letter of support. Motion carried.

Updates:

Symposium report by Long and Wills. Went well. Some came primarily to hear the talk about Oxbow. There was good transition between interest tables. There was discussion on how we can get better attendance: there needs to be more cooperation between the three chambers; we need to mix up the presentation style.

Ride the Rockies - There will be a meeting with the organizers on Feb. 15. This will include Les from the fairgrounds, Dan Miller, people from the Hotchkiss K-8 school as well as Chamber board. Duclo and Lenore Cambria are in charge of the home lodging. This could be a good fund raiser for organizations. Long is arranging entertainment. The beer garden is provided by Odell Brewing Company and manned by Hotchkiss Community Chamber of Commerce volunteers. Profits go to pay for the entertainment.

There are still two open positions on the Chamber Board, including Recording Secretary.

There was discussion on a joint chamber social meeting and multi-chamber member rates. Pennington Shaffer offered to have a joint social at her place at Mid-way. Would it be possible to get a reduced rate on membership if a business joined all three Valley chambers?

February 9 is the deadline for getting in comments on the oil and gas lease question.

New Business:

Moore has contacted Linda at the Pack Shack about producing new Hotchkiss postcards. She suggested that we have a contest.

The Antique show and sale will be Feb. 24-25.

Tullis asked if the Chamber would be in charge of a six page section of a magazine for \$3000. We could sell ads to business. Because of the short time to get the ads in, it was decided that we could not do it this year.

Beautification - Wendell Koontz and Mary Hockenbery will work together on a survey about ideas for improving the appearance of the downtown, including the high corridor and the park by City Market. How would this fit in with the Creative Art District and the Orton grant?

Black Canyon Art Show - They are looking for a coordinator and volunteers. They may be taking a year off if people do not step up.

Next meeting is March 7.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Duclo, temporary recording secretary.