

Hotchkiss Community Chamber of Commerce  
Minutes of the March 7, 2012 Membership Meeting

Attending: Nathan Sponseller, president; Bill Long, vice president; Marsy Moore; Debbie Pennington; Tom Wills. Gloria Crank; Mary Hockenbery; Elaine Brett; Joanna Reckert; Rhonda Duclou, treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by president, Nathan Sponseller.

There was a motion by Moore and seconded by Wills to approve the minutes that had been sent out by email. Motion carried.

Brett made the motion to approve the financial report. Seconded by Long. Motion carried.

Report of the corresponding secretary was given by Sponseller in the absence of Katherine Colwell.

- Updating of the mailing list is in progress as undeliverable letters are returned. There about 700 businesses on the list for the three chambers.
- Members are encouraged to send photos and/or logos of their business to be included on the Chambers' Business Directory.
- There is now an active Ride the Rockies page with lodging and home stay links and photos.
- Work continues on updating the home page.
- Work continues on the North Fork Valley page update.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> membership solicitation letter has been sent out. We now have 68 members.

Letters have been submitted for support of the NFV Creative Arts District and the United Methodist Church to receive grants. We have been asked for a letter of support for the historic Hotchkiss Barn planning grant.

Ride the Rockies –

- Long has booked the sound system for the day. One musical group is signed. TDS has given a \$400 sponsorship.
- There have been several meetings with school personnel to go over details.
- Home stay host forms are out to organizations. There has been some contacts from riders.
- Local wine producers will be contacted about selling near the beer garden. There is a beer truck that travels with the tour. We man the booth and get the profits that pay for the entertainment.
- Sponseller will attend the April town council meeting about the liquor license. We will need a rider on our insurance.

Downtown improvement –

- Wills has contacted the planning commission and the town about improving the appearance of downtown Hotchkiss. Mayor Koontz is in favor.
- We need members from the Chamber, town council and the town to work on planning.
- Some ideas –
  1. New lower street lights – might be able to get a grant for this.
  2. Planter/trees along main street
  3. Heart & Soul may be able to help get grant info.
  4. Need to be added to the master plan.
  5. Need more people to get involved.

Long suggested that the Chamber needs to look into getting a 501c6. This is needed to get donations and grants.

There will be a joint chamber boards meeting in March.

Moore volunteered to be on the Chamber board.

Announcements: Artists' reception at the Hotchkiss-Crawford Museum March 10 for the Sheep Dog award by TDS.

Respectfully submitted  
Rhonda Duclou, secretary protem