

**Hotchkiss Community Chamber of Commerce
Regular Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, May 02, 2012 at the Hotchkiss Library**

The meeting was called to order at 7:33am by President, Nathan Sponseller.

In attendance: President, Nathan Sponseller; Board Member, Elaine Brett; King Robertson; Corresponding Secretary, Katherine Colwell; Board Member, Marsy Moore; Debbie Pennington; Gloria Crank; Mary Hockenbery; Joann Tullis; Katie Gnauck; Deb Cheesman; Tom Wills; Vice President, Bill Long.

In the absence of Treasurer, Rhonda Duclo, no Treasurer's report was submitted. The minutes of the April 4th meeting were submitted by Treasurer, Rhonda Duclo, emailed to the membership by Corresponding Secretary, Katherine Colwell, and accepted by unanimous consent of the members present.

The Corresponding Secretary's report was given by Katherine Colwell. Katherine reported a total of 84 members (including 2 individuals and 15 non-profits). This is a much higher membership number than is typical at the beginning of May. Katherine reported that she and Nathan met with Alowetta Terrien co-owner of Thin Air Media, the chamber's website host, and an affiliate of the Colorado Small Business Development Center (SBDC). Through the SBDC, Terrien will provide 10 hours of consulting in relation to the current website enhancement project and the filing of paperwork for a 501 (c) 6 non-profit status for the Chamber. The Chamber formally signed up for the consulting at no cost to the Chamber. Katherine reported that she planned to meet with Terrien again following the Chamber meeting.

Katherine reported posting a photo on the Hotchkiss Chamber website of the donated wine barrels which will be modified into planters for the downtown business corridor. In addition, the Community Event Calendar available through the Chamber website is now no longer an independent calendar, but rather the calendar maintained by the North Fork Merchant Herald. Herald owner, Gloria Crank, had offered last month to allow the North Fork Chambers of Commerce to use the Herald Calendar as their official calendar. This switch provides easier and consistent access for Chamber members to have events posted on the calendar.

Nathan reported, in relation to the Dog Trial weekend, that the Chamber has filled up the available yard sale spaces in the two vacant lots downtown on either side of the old Coyote drive in. The Chamber has also allocated \$500 towards local advertising of the Dog Trial and other events of Mother's Day weekend.

Nathan gave a brief report of June 10 Ride the Rockies planning status and also mentioned that a call for volunteers would soon be made. Volunteers will be needed for an information booth, the beer garden, and security at the fairgrounds – the location of the beer garden. There are banners (with or without grommets) for Hotchkiss businesses to post during the event.

Mary Hockenbery gave a report relating to the upcoming flower planting project for Bridge Street. The Town of Hotchkiss, the Hotchkiss Chamber, and North Fork 2020 Heart & Soul donated funds (\$200, \$300, & \$200 respectively), and Nancy Hassett donated additional wine barrels for planters. The flower planting project will take place on Saturday, May 5th at 9am. Ruth at High Country Gardens is designing the flower arrangements. Volunteers will meet at the Creamery Art Center tent. All are encouraged to pitch in... bring your own trowels!

Tom Wills reported that the 2012 Hotchkiss Downtown and Highway 92/133 Corridor Improvement Survey is in final form. The survey will be available to the public to fill out and return for about a month. Surveys will be available to pick up and return at the following locations: Duckworks Auto Parts, First State Bank of Colorado, Hotchkiss Town Hall, The Creamery Arts Center and the Hotchkiss Public Library. Responses to the survey will help inform the future of downtown improvement. In addition, Mary Hockenbery will meet with Hotchkiss K-8 teachers to discuss possible ways classes can respond to the Survey.

Marsy Moore presented a photo submitted for use as a town postcard. The photo shows the West Elks in the background with the Hotchkiss Homestead and a coal train in the foreground. Cost estimates and production timeframe will be provided to the Board shortly, followed by a vote to proceed with the project. Should the project be undertaken, the postcards will be paid for by the Chamber and sold to local businesses for re-sale.

Joann Tullis reported on progress of the Creative District's Directory, and eventual links from the Chambers' websites.

Elaine Brett reported on the inventory of current advertising for all three North Fork Chambers, with joint advertising in the future in mind for some publications.

Elaine also reported on the North Fork 2020 Heart & Soul. Planning and design phases are complete, and early phases of the project elements have begun.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted by Nathan Sponseller