

HOTCHKISS COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Minutes of the September 5, 2012 meeting

Attending: Nathan Sponseller, president; Bill Long, vice president; Tom Wills; Debbie Cheesman; Katie Gnauck; Elaine Brett; Gloria Crank; Katherine Colwell, corresponding secretary; Rhonda Duclo, treasurer.

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

The motion was made by Gnauck and seconded by Wills to accept the minutes of the August meeting as sent out. Motion carried.

The motion was made by Brett and seconded by Gnauck to accept the treasurer's report.

Corresponding Secretary Report :

- We now have 92 members.
- The website has been updated with pictures of the fair and from the last Colorado Grand tour.
- There are updates from the Creative Coalition and Business Symposium.
- Members are encouraged to send Katherine information on activities to be promoted by email or on the website.
- There is a problem understanding messages left on voice mail.

Old Business:

- Colorado Grand – still need some volunteers. Let Nathan know if you can help on Friday, Sept. 14. Zach's will be supplying meat and beans, Delicious Orchards – salad, vegetarian meal and cobbler. Roger's Mesa Fruit will supply fruit. We will receive \$6000 from Colorado Grand for lunch with the remainder going to the chamber. Todd Sheets is videoing the whole ride. The scholarship is being increased from \$3500 to \$5000.
- Visitor center – the door has been replaced by Tuin Glass. There was a meeting with 6 people from DMEA about the upgrades needed to use the center as a payment kiosk. There was an architect, technician, facilities person. Talked about changes, took pictures and measurements. There is no proposal yet. We want to redo our signs. They are talking about smaller lighted signs for DMEA and the Visitor Center. The inside back wall will probably be moved back. That will give us less storage, but more space in front. We need a physical address. Marlene Searle at the Town Hall is checking on this. The motel owners are on board with the changes.

New Business:

- Business Symposium – Elaine will attend the planning meeting Sept. 10. The theme will be "Investing in Your Community"
- Annual Meeting: Nov. 1 is the date set for the annual meeting. We are checking into holding it at the museum. We will be looking for nominations for the business and citizen of the year. The award will be given at the meeting. We are also looking for nominations for board members to be elected at the annual meeting. The program will be about downtown improvement.
- A question came up about the sign policy. It was decided no change is needed.

Non-agenda items:

- Gnauck announced that her business will be closing. They are selling the inventory at half price.

Committee Reports:

- The Downtown Merchants Committee will not be working on the Hot Bucks promotion that was held last year. There is not enough interest from the businesses to continue the committee at this time. Hotchkiss is Happening needs to be driven by the merchants. Suggest that the effort should be on downtown improvement at this time. If merchants have an idea for an event come to the chamber and we will support with promotion.
- Downtown Improvement continues with writing the plan. Asked for suggestions of items for the town to pay for next year. Movable planters and benches were suggested. The chamber could continue to furnish some flowers for the planters. Heart and Soul has the ability to get software for town planning. This would help visualize what improvements would look like.
- Is there a way we can promote displays in the windows of empty store fronts?
- The 501c6 is progressing.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Acting secretary
Rhonda Duclo