

Hotchkiss Community Chamber of Commerce
Regular meeting Oct. 3, 2012
Hotchkiss Library Basement

Attending: Nathan Sponseller, President; Gordon Hebenstreit; Diane Reddin;
Sue Whittlesey, Mary Hockenbery; Rhonda Duclo, Treasurer; Marsy Moore;
Katherine Colwell, Corresponding Secretary; Tom Wills; Gloria Crank

Moore moved to accept the minutes of the September meeting as e-mailed.

Wills seconded the motion and it carried.

Hockenbery moved to accept the financial report. The motion was seconded by Moore and carried.

Corresponding Secretary Report: We now have 96 members. Four new. There are photos of Colorado Grand on the website. We need ones of the volunteers.

Presentations:

- Lions Club - Reddin and Whittlesey gave an overview of what the Lions Club does in the Hotchkiss/Crawford area. Organized 25 years ago. Have 6 active members. They need volunteers. Three scholarships of \$1000 are given to local seniors each year. They do vision screening of preschool children and fund glasses for those in need. They have purchased \$17,000 in musical instruments for the Hotchkiss K-8. It is becoming a challenge to maintain them. The main money making project is the food booth at the County fair. They also had a booth at Ride the Rockies. Pasta Project is supporter. They meet for breakfast at 7:30 at the Hometown Café on the 2nd and 4th Mondays. Dues are \$80 per year.
- Dog Trials - Hebenstreit reported that this year's trials went well. Good weather, record number of competitors, almost 80 dogs. Attendance was down. They met expenses of \$10-\$12,000. They need volunteers to take some of the responsibility in planning and at the trials. Also need more vendors. (A volunteer could organize the vendors.)

Old Business:

- Wills reported on downtown improvement. CDOT will not allow the planters that had been suggested at the corners on Bridge Street. So the curb extensions are back in the plan. There will still be 6 foot by 18 inch planters along the sidewalk. These would be made out of mine timbers and bolts. The cost will be \$200-\$300. There was also discussion on locations for tree planting. There will be a small park between the Rose and North Fork Valley Restaurant. Benches could be purchased at cost from Gambles. The town needs to know what the Chamber is willing to donate to the project.

- Sponseller gave a report on the Colorado Grand. It was a good day, weather was great, large group of locals turned out. Profit was about \$3000. Food costs were higher. We served more people. The Tour provides a \$5000 scholarship for a local senior. The last time they were here they give grants of \$10,000 to North Fork Ambulance Association and Needlerock Clinic. They are applying again this year. The Tour likes to support medical type of projects.
- Visitor Center – Sponseller gave a report on the DMEA proposal for the payment kiosk remodel at the Chamber's visitor center. We have made some change suggestions.
- A thank you letter was read from the Kiwanis Club for the good that the Chamber does for the community.

New Business:

- Business Symposium at the Paonia Town Hall Nov. 3. Theme is financing business: What are innovative ways to get money for start up?
- Our Annual Meeting will be held on Nov. 1 at 5:30 at the Hotchkiss Library. Refreshments will be served in the library then at 6:00 move to the Addams Room in Memorial Hall for presentations on the Heart and Soul program and Downtown Improvement. Awards will be given for the Citizen of the Year, Business of the Year, and Non-Profit of the Year. Nomination for these need to be made to Sponseller by Oct. 19. We also are taking nominations for board members. There are three open seats. Nominations are needed for these slots. They will be elected at the Annual Meeting.
- The membership campaign will begin soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

The next meeting will be at the library on Nov. 7 and 7:30 a.m.

Submitted by Rhonda Duclou