

HCCC

HOTCHKISS COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

promoting business & quality of life

Regular Board Meeting Minutes 12/16/2015 Wheeler Room, Memorial Hall

Present: Board Members: Nathan Sponseller, Bill Long, Katherine Colwell, Robbie Winne, Tracy Ihnot, Sue Whittlesey.

Member: Kim Shay.

Absent: Board Member: Carrie Yantzer

- The Board meeting was called to order by President Sponseller at 8:32am.
- Minutes for the November Executive Session were emailed to the board by outgoing Recording Secretary, Rhonda Duclo, and were reviewed. Several corrections were requested: Winne and Colwell were absent but this was not noted. Also Kelli Hepler's first name needed correction to "Kelli". It was agreed to strike the comment about the downtown festival as there was no formal action nor vote taken. Whittlesey moved and Ihnot seconded approval of corrected minutes; motion carried.
- Whittlesey had emailed and presented the Treasurer's report. There was a question about at what point in the year a new membership carries over into the following year. It was relayed that any membership brought in during October or later traditionally includes membership in both the present and the following membership years. Long motioned and Colwell seconded approval of Treasurer's report; motion carried.
- Colwell presented the Communication Secretary's report. She reported she was scheduled to have a final wrap up telephone meeting with Thin Air Media regarding the 2015 upgrades to the NorthForkValley.net website, and would, at that time, begin a discussion with Thin Air about doing style and "responsive design" upgrades to the HotchkissChamber.com website, with a recommended completion of early spring, 2016. Sponseller related that one of the most common compliments heard about the Chamber (and also on membership forms) is the value of the weekly TI&L e-newsletter. There was discussion about linking the TI&L with HotchkissChamber.com as part of the website upgrade, and about how to include a broader section of the HCCC membership in the TI&L.
- Kim Shay of Ace Gambles of Hotchkiss was present to discuss a proposed "Art & Hardware" event (yet to be formally named). Shay mentioned that she is working with Mary Hockenbery and Tom Wills (and Downtown Improvement Merchants' Committee) on formulating the concept but that it would be a juried event held in Gambles after hours. Items would be for sale and any commissions on sales would go to fund Downtown Improvement. The event is tentatively planned for Friday, March 11 6-8pm. Shay inquired if the Chamber would be interested in incorporating this event into a business after hours and asked if the Chamber would be interested in serving and selling local wines at the event (Chamber fundraiser). The Board is enthusiastic and promised to look into the details of wine sales. Winne asked if other businesses might "piggyback" on the event. Shay encouraged that.
- Long reported that the sealant had been applied to the Welcome to Hotchkiss sign which was replaced this past summer. Whittlesey reported that the bill for the work had been paid. There was a discussion about adding solar lights to the signs. Long will explore options.

- Sponseller gave a Holiday Art & Craft Fair report, and reported that Rhonda Duclo had expressed willingness to help organize the event in the future as she has for the past 7-8 years. The event was reported to be a success with attendance more “even” than in some past years – few peaks and valleys and more of a steady stream.
- Sponseller reported that the membership mailing was delivered to the post office by Ihnot the first week of December, on schedule, and that 18 renewals had been received by the time of the meeting – an historically very good response rate. Sponseller thanked Ihnot, Duclo, and Colwell for their efforts to get the mailing out.
- Sponseller noted that the Chamber presently has a “two signature required” checking account which requires two officers to sign every check issued. He reported that this policy had been in place for the past 21 years but that 6-7 years ago the bank stopped the manual review of such checks and so that most of the protections of having such an account were now null. Sponseller suggested for the sake of simplicity for the Treasurer, and because the financials are reviewed monthly, that the policy be changed to a one signature required account. Long moved and Ihnot seconded, to change the signature requirement; motion carried.
- Colwell noted that she would like to see the Ewaste recycling event re-instituted after a break in 2015. Positive feedback was offered by the board and Whittlesey noted that her daughter works for an ewaste recycler that holds such events around Colorado. Whittlesey offered to have her daughter contact the Chamber about such an event. The board was receptive.
- Colwell asked about progress on the brochure. Sponseller noted that no contact with the designer had been had during the past month but that he would contact the designer to inquire.
- Whittlesey noted that there was some interest in organizing “Mesa specific” Farm and Art tours for Rogers Mesa and Redlands Mesa.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nathan R. Sponseller, President