

Hotchkiss Community Chamber of Commerce

February 6, 2013

Monthly Members' Meeting - Hotchkiss Public Library

Present: President Nathan Sponseller, Corresponding Secretary - Katherine Colwell, Recording Secretary – Tom Wills, Treasurer – Elaine Brett, Marsy Moore, King Robertson, Joanne Tullis and Debbie Cheesman.

President Nathan Sponseller called the meeting to order.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the January meeting be approved as written and e-mailed to the membership.

Treasurer Elaine Brett presented a reformatted monthly report produced in QuickBooks. There was an extensive discussion of details and mechanics of Chamber finance. The report was accepted as presented.

Corresponding Secretary Katherine Colwell reported that 2013 paid-up membership is now at 44, a good rate of renewals for only a month into the new year. New members include North Fork Organics, Mesa Winds Farm & Winery, and the Hotchkiss Lion's Club. The Chamber board has set a 2013 goal of surpassing the 2012 membership total (100) by ten percent. Voice mail upgrades have been done by TDS and it is more complicated. Updates on the website continue.

Joanne Tullis and Debbie Cheesman presented information on the North Fork Creative Coalition's drive to achieve the State-sanctioned title of a full Colorado Creative District. They requested that a Chamber board member serve on their governing board. Nathan said that he would be willing to do it. Joanne emphasized that the "District" title is similar to something like a "Scenic Byway" designation. Mostly honorary with no governmental powers or taxing ability attached. Just a valuable marketing tool with benefits from the state attached. There has been some confusion about this.

Joanne said that one core item on the NFCC's wish list was to hire a part time administrator to keep things coordinated. The main question was where the funding for this would come from. They would also like to get IRS 501 C- 3 status.

Nathan reported that the DMEA remodel of the Chamber's Visitors Center at the Hotchkiss Inn is completed except for final clean-up. The grand opening of the DMEA bill pay facility in the building will be celebrated on Wednesday, February 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Elaine announced that the Western Colorado Community Foundation would be hosting a get together with four major philanthropic funding organizations on March 20 in Grand Junction. Rural Philanthropy Days will be in June this year in Ouray.

Regarding 2013 Downtown Improvement, Tom reported that the Hotchkiss FFA high school club would be assembling the new planters. Mary Hockenbery has been coordinating with the

new Vocational Agriculture/FFA teacher and Dustyn Foster will be advising them on achieving his design. They will be building 10 six foot by three foot mine timber planters with 7 going on the inner sidewalk area between Oak and 2nd Streets. Three will be installed in the Bernie Fair Park next to the North Fork Valley Restaurant and the Rose. Half of the cost of the timbers has been donated by Todd Enterprises with the match coming from the Town. The Chamber will be paying for additional materials, assembly and preservative costs.

The Chamber's next member meeting will be held on March 6, 7:30 a.m. in the basement of the Hotchkiss Public Library.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Wills – Recording Secretary