

## Hotchkiss Community Chamber of Commerce

March 6, 2013

Monthly Members' Meeting - Hotchkiss Public Library

*Present: President Nathan Sponseller, Vice-president – Bill Long, Corresponding Secretary - Katherine Colwell, Recording Secretary – Tom Wills, Treasurer – Elaine Brett, Marsy Moore, King Robertson, Mary Hockenbery, Sue Whittlesey and Kami Collins*

President Nathan Sponseller called the meeting to order.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the February 6 meeting be approved as written and e-mailed to the membership.

Treasurer Elaine Brett gave an oral report of the current Chamber account balances. Special Projects - \$5,993.68, General Checking - \$7,485.40 and Downtown Merchants/Improvement \$292.80. The report was accepted as presented.

Corresponding Secretary Katherine Colwell reported that 2013 paid-up membership is now at 59. Brand new members (besides renewals) include Happy Trails West, Delta County Tourism Cabinet and the Hotchkiss Kiwanis Club. Katherine will begin working with other Chambers later this month on updating the master business mailing lists.

Kami Collins, the new executive director of the Delta Chamber, gave an overview of their Chamber's activities and expressed a wish to have all of the county's chambers work together cooperatively. She said she would be happy to include our events or other info in regular e-mail "blasts" to her membership.

Nathan reported that the grand opening of the DMEA bill pay facility in the Chamber's Visitor Center building went well on Wednesday, February 20. Bill Long led a discussion of the options for the phone system and speed-dial lodging and business directory planned for the Center. Also the installation of a door counter. Bill estimated that the phone and door counter will cost about \$400 and TDS would donate the phone installation. Members are reminded that there are racks for your brochures at Visitor's Center and are encouraged to take advantage of this member benefit.

**Recycling.** Nathan reported that the officers had agreed unanimously with a proposal to have the Chambers name on an E-Waste recycling event tentatively scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup>. Nathan has been the lead organizer for the event. The e-recycling, to be held at the Delta County Fairgrounds, would last for about four hours and would allow businesses, or anyone in the community, to dispose of unwanted electronics such as computer towers, monitors, television sets and copiers and more. A hard-drive shredder would be available. The First State Bank will be a sponsor of the event along with TDS Telecom and the Conservation Center. The Delta Chamber will host a similar event on the same day in Delta.

After the meeting there was a separate meeting during which a representative of E-Waste Recycling of Grand Junction, Chamber board member and others discussed the detail of the event.

**Scholarship.** Members are encouraged to remind those that might be interested that the deadline to apply for the Colorado Grand \$5,000 (one year) scholarship will be April 1. The scholarship is open to any Hotchkiss High School senior who plans to attend a four year college or university within the state of Colorado. Info and applications are available from the guidance counselor at HHS. Judging for the scholarship will take place prior to the April Chamber meeting.

**Creative Coalition.** Elaine Brett gave an update on the North Fork Creative Coalition's drive to achieve the State-sanctioned title of a full, certified Colorado Creative District. Consultants Flo Raitano and Jon Schler will be visiting on Saturday March 9th and meeting with some locals including Mayor Koontz.

She reminded members that Heart and Soul would host an event on Saturday March 9 at the Paradise Theatre. Films made by the Pass the Mic kid's interview program directed by KVNF and funded by a grant from the Orton Foundation, along with others will be shown. The event is free.

**Hotchkiss Sidewalk Ordinance** – Tom reported that the Hotchkiss Town Council will be considering and possibly adopting a new ordinance regarding sidewalks at the regular meeting on March 14 at 6:30 p.m. at Hotchkiss High School. Besides setting forth a new formula for cost sharing (50/50) of replacement and some new construction between the abutting property owner and the Town, the ordinance also updates a section regarding the use of downtown sidewalks.

As proposed in the final draft downtown businesses in the core area (with 8 foot wide sidewalks) who propose to place anything on the public sidewalk must get an annual permit from the Town. Basically no one will be allowed to block more than three feet of the eight foot width in the downtown core area from Oak to 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standard is 5 feet of clear sidewalk. This requirement precludes the placing of anything on the sidewalk in other areas of the Town with narrower sidewalks.

As a result of the ordinance it is expected that the requirement to repair dangerous or degraded section of sidewalk will be enforced. Downtown business property owners with bad patches are encouraged to plan to replace or repair problem areas over the next couple of years.

**2013 Downtown Improvement.** Tom reported that the assembly of the new mine timber planters will begin soon. He reminded the members that despite the actual timbers being donated by Todd Enterprises and funded in part by the Town of Hotchkiss there will be expenses borne by the Chamber including interior lumber and linings, preservatives, sanding supplies, etc.

Mary Hockenbery continues to organize a group of volunteers to maintain the flowers in the new and older planters throughout the 2013 season.

After the main meeting, in addition to the recycling committee meeting some Chamber officers met with Alowetta Terrian to give her input on the completion of the Chamber's application for an IRS 501(c)6 status, which would allow for corporate donations.

The Chamber's next member meeting will be held on April 3, 7:30 a.m. in the basement of the Hotchkiss Public Library.

*Respectfully submitted, Tom Wills – Recording Secretary*