

Hotchkiss Community Chamber of Commerce

April 3, 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, Mary Hockenbery, and Joanne Tullis

President Nathan Sponseller called the meeting to order.

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

Treasurer Elaine Brett gave an oral report of the current Chamber account balances from report sheets that had been e-mailed to the officers. Special Projects - \$5,993.68, General Checking - \$8,009.58 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 78. 17 members had renewed over the past month and there was one new member, Pioneer Propane.

Katherine presented the final for the new letterhead and envelope design. All of the board approved of the design and High Country Printing, a Paonia member, will print us a new batch as the previous supply was almost gone.

Debbie Cheesman and Joanne Tullis of the North Fork Creative Coalition reported that the group is very busy with items related to submitting the Creative District application to the State. The group is also working on branding, putting together a second, updated Creative Directory for the valley.

Joanne asked if the Coalition could have a web page on the Valley Chamber site. It was agreed that was doable, but that for Katherine to put the page together she would need the information and photos the group wants posted.

Nathan gave an update on the Chamber's involvement in the 2013 Hotchkiss Sheep Camp Stockdog Trials scheduled for May 10-12. The Chamber has budgeted \$500 for local advertising of the event and the All Roads Lead to Hotchkiss Yard Sales. Nathan was unsure if the Bridge Street lots owned by the First State Bank would be available for renting out for yard sales since they are for sale and offers are pending.

Joanne said that the Creamery will be hosting an arts and crafts fair in the Creamery Park and spaces are available.

Members are reminded of the Electronics Recycling event on Saturday, April 27 from 10 to 2, being co-sponsored by the Chamber along with First State Bank, TDS Telecom and the Western Slope Conservation Center. This is the opportunity to rid yourself of that collection of defunct computers and office equipment. Check the Chamber website and the local papers for more details.

There will be a Business After Hours event from 5 - 6:30 p.m. at the United Country Realty (Gary Hubbell) office next to Subway on May 3.

Bill Long reported that the hands-free phone has been ordered for the Visitor's Center. TDS donated the phone and installation. It should be in place within the next few weeks. A door counter will be ordered. The DMEA kiosk and Visitor's Center is otherwise fully operational and there have been no problems so far.

Mary Hockenbery reported that the details of soil mixes etc. for the downtown flower project are still being worked out. This year the flowers will come from Lost Mesa Flowers. Some compost for soil mixing has been donated by North Fork Organics of Hotchkiss whose compost is also sold at Paonia Farm and Home's new organic farm center (formerly Garden Planet).

The flower planting day will be on Saturday, May 4th. On April 29 a crew from Hotchkiss High School led by student body president Josh Hardin will rehabilitate the old wine barrel planters. The plastic space filler will be removed and the barrels filled up with fresh potting mix. Thanks HHS students!

Tom reported that the first mine-cribbing timber planter kit had been delivered to the Vo-Ag/FFA class at the high school and the others would soon follow. Tom and Dustyn Foster (the designer) are doing the cutting and notching. The students will sand, drill, apply preservative and assemble the planters using mine roof bolts donated by Mountain Coal Company. The timbers themselves were donated by Todd Enterprises and the Town of Hotchkiss.

After the regular meeting committee members met to choose a winner of the Colorado Grand scholarship as well as discussing the final bits of the IRS 501 C(6) application.

The Downtown Improvement committee had a short discussion as well. The North Fork Creative Coalition would like to help with the downtown improvement project in some way. There was some discussion of tasking them with coordinating a community call for artist/artisans and community groups to do surface enhancements for the 9 new planters. The group also did a site inspection of the alley park area and admired the North Fork Valley Restaurant's attractive shabby-chic patio fence at the rear of the alley. This should work well with alley improvement ideas. They also talked of the possibility of the replacement of the sidewalk in front of the Creamery Park being a grant-funded art project. Possibilities include trees and mosaic inlay or other durable art flatwork. Similar enhancement could be done to a planned sidewalk in the alley (Barnie Fair) park.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Wills – Recording Secretary