

HCCC

HOTCHKISS COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

promoting business & quality of life

Regular Members' Meeting, September 4, 2013 – Hotchkiss Public Library Basement

Present: President-Nathan Sponseller, Treasurer- Elaine Brett, Rhonda Duclou, Recording secretary -Tom Wills, Corresponding Secretary – Katherine Colwell and Katie Gnauck and Kit Stephenson (Delta County Libraries) and Maria Forster – (VOA – Connect for Health Colorado).

Chamber president Nathan Sponseller called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 a.m.

The minutes of the August 7 meeting were approved as written and e-mailed to the membership.

Treasurer's report: Elaine Brett gave a verbal report that was approved as presented. General fund: \$6,489.14. Special Projects account: \$5,009.09 and Downtown Merchants - \$292.80. The Chamber is still waiting on a \$1,000 (approx.) check from E-waste Recyclers from the spring electronic recycling event.

Corresponding Secretary's Report: Katherine Colwell reported that Chamber membership is now up to 93 businesses and non-profits with the addition of P.J.s Pub.

Katherine's reformatted informational emails to the membership received compliments.

Visitor's Center: The phone system, directory and door counter at the Visitor's Center/DMEA kiosk are now fully operational. Additional businesses who would like to be included in the speed-dial directory can contact Nathan for information. 872-5031.

The Chamber's annual Arts, Crafts and Business Fair will be happening this year on Saturday November 23 from 9-4 or so. Tables (8' by 6' approx. space) are \$25 each. Just mail a check in to the Chamber at P.O.158, Hotchkiss CO 81419. For further info call the Chamber 872-3226 or Rhonda Duclou 872- 4780.

Chamber Endorses Library Tax Increase

At the request of Katie Gnauck of the Delta County Library District Board the Chamber board members present voted unanimously to approve a letter of support for the proposed Library District tax increase. The District currently is funded by grants and a 3.0 mill tax approved by voters in 1997. The proposed increase is an additional 1.6 mills, a little over a 50%.

According to Gnauck and Kit Stephenson, who directs the North Fork libraries, the reason for the increase is the trending decrease in property values resulting in decreased revenues. This has already resulted in some decreased services and hours.

Town Christmas Tree? There was some discussion of possibly decorating a Bridge Street tree for the holidays. Trees at the First State Bank drive-up and at the 6th and Bridge mini park by the credit union were mentioned as possibilities.

Maria Forster of Volunteers of America (VOA) gave a short talk on the group's services in relation to Connect for Health Colorado and the Affordable Care Act that requires everyone to have health insurance as of January 1, 2014. VOA has a grant from CHC that provides several guides that will help people work their way through the process. Maria is the guide who is based in the North Fork and has an office upstairs at the Creamery Arts Center. If you have questions or would like an appointment for free help call Maria at: 970-234-5542

More information and applications to sign up and calculate your costs are available on line at www.connectforhealthcolorado.com . Applications for comprehensive insurance are accepted beginning on October 1, 2013. Applications submitted and approved by December 15 will result in health insurance being in effect as of January 1, 2014.

Art Workshop: Katherine announced that she will be facilitating a Mini-Workshop on Monday September 16th, 10:30 a.m. In the Wheeler Room, Memorial Hall in Hotchkiss. Free and Public Welcome. All materials provided. Sponsored by Hotchkiss Fine Arts Association. Explore Autumn Color with a variety of media.

Sign Code: Tom reported that the Town's Planning Commission is still working on a draft sign code. A draft is available on the Chamber website. Tom is available for questions at 872-2664 during the day.

Downtown Improvement: Tom reported that few more of the mine timber planters will be decorated before winter, one by Creamery art students and one at the PO by Montessori art students. A bulletin board/shade structure and decorative concrete pad and sidewalk extension in the Barnie Fair alley are being planned for 2014.

The next regular member meeting will be on Wednesday, October 2 downstairs at the Hotchkiss Library.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Wills - Recording Secretary