

Executive Session Hotchkiss K-8 Conference Room - 01/27/2016

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

Call to Order. The Board meeting was called to order by President Sponseller at 8:38am.

Approval of Minutes.

Minutes for the December 30, 2015, Executive Session were emailed to the board prior to the meeting by President and Interim Recording Secretary, Sponseller, and were reviewed. Minor changes and additions to the first emailed version were incorporated prior to the meeting. Colwell noted that there was no “sign off” on the minutes and Sponseller agreed to add, “Respectfully submitted, Nathan Sponseller, President”. Whittlesey moved and Ihnot seconded approval of minutes, with this addition; motion passed by unanimous consent.

Treasurer’s Report.

Whittlesey had emailed out the Treasurer’s report prior to the meeting for review. No questions were posed. Long moved to accept the report as presented, Winne seconded. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

Communication Secretary’s Report.

Colwell solicited feedback regarding Colorado Tourism Office social media. The board was in agreement that “we aren’t there yet”, specifically with respect to having no paid staff. Colwell reported that due to family commitments in April, the TI&L e-newsletter will take a hiatus for two weeks that month. Colwell requested some details about the planned February 18 Property Tax Seminar for promotion to members. Whittlesey offered to provide this.

Old Business.

Lodging List update.

Ihnot has been working on updating the details contained in the Chamber’s official lodging list, which is posted on the Chamber websites. Delta County Tourism had been contacted and provided their most recent information, which contained businesses not on the existing Chamber list. Many of these businesses were listed as not collecting lodging tax. Ihnot requested guidance on which businesses to include in the Chamber’s list, in light of the fact that the list has never been limited only to Chamber members. Discussion ensued. A few items of clarification related to the DCT list will be solicited by Sponseller. Sponseller suggested that he draft a letter to be emailed to the non-lodging tax compliant business, both soliciting membership in the Chamber as well as providing encouragement and instructions on how such businesses might sign up to collect lodging tax, with the incentive that tax collection would be required in order for listing on the Chamber database.

Farm to Fiddle Event.

This new, proposed event was briefly discussed with an announcement that Marsy Moore of the event planning committee would be attending the HCCC February Board meeting to update the Board on details of the event, and to discuss areas in which the Chamber may be asked to participate.

Face Cut-Out Photo Props.

This project, which the Chamber funded to the tune of \$100 in 2015, is progressing, with a proposed draft for the Paonia prop presented. The Hotchkiss cut-out prop will be mobile and may be set up in various locations in town, including at events.

New Business.

Annual Membership Drive. Sponseller announced that nearly sixty members have joined or renewed as of the date of the meeting – a record rate of return. A brief discussion followed, with a suggestion that by early March Board members each choose some un-renewed past members to approach for personal visits.

HotchkissChamber.com Website Upgrade Bid. Colwell presented a bid from our website host, Thin Air Media, for an upgrade of the HotchkissChamber.com website allowing for mobile optimization and re-design. The bid of \$1,200 was the same as for an identical project undertaken for the NorthForkValley.net website in 2015. The main difference between last year's project and this year's project is that we will not hire an outside third party (Nikole James) for design services. After brief discussion, Long moved, and Yantzer seconded a motion to proceed, and the motion passed by unanimous consent.

Colorado Grand Scholarship. The \$7,500 Colorado Grand Scholarship award was discussed. Sponseller noted that the application has been updated and ready to send to Hotchkiss High School for distribution. Some details of the scholarship were discussed and Sponseller asked to form a scholarship committee. Sponseller, Ihnot and Winne all volunteered for the task. The submission deadline was chosen to be 5pm on March 15.

E-Waste Event. The Chamber had sponsored E-waste recycling events/fundraisers in 2013 and 2014 and skipped 2015 because the previous recycling partner went out of business. Whittlesey had previously suggested soliciting a bid from Denver-based Clean Harbors. The proposal was received, and at a cost of roughly \$25k, was deemed prohibitively expensive. Whittlesey, prior to the meeting, had replied to Clean Harbors that the bid was not feasible for the Chamber. The Board then discussed options for other partners. Double J Disposal of Austin was mentioned, as well as Reclametals of Montrose. Sponseller and Whittlesey agreed to look into the possible options and report back. The Board hopes to hold an event in the late spring or summer of 2016.

Downtown Improvement Committee and Hotchkiss is Happening Facebook Page. Sponseller noted that there is not a clear or formal agreement about how these entities interface with the Chamber and what their official capacities are. He suggested a discussion at the next Executive Session. Colwell noted that on the Hotchkiss is Happening Facebook page there is no longer a Chamber affiliation listed or implied (which may alleviate any public confusion) and the Chamber may want to discuss relevant social media strategy. Any discussion of roles between the Chamber and these entities would be for clarification purposes and to make sure that assumptions on either side can be avoided and relationships clarified.

Property Tax Seminar. Whittlesey has been working on scheduling this free community event which will be promoted to members and non-members. The event will be held February 18, from 6-8pm, in the Addams Room in Memorial Hall. Purpose of the event will be to help clarify property tax issues related to business in Delta County. Assessor, Debbie Griffith, will be the speaker.

Next Meeting was announced. Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 24, 8:30am at the Wheeler Room in Memorial Hall.

Adjournment. Meeting was adjourned by Sponseller at 9:50am.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Nathan R. Sponseller, President and Interim Recording Secretary