

HCCC

HOTCHKISS COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

promoting business & quality of life

Board of Directors – April 30, 2014 – 8 a.m., Hotchkiss Public Library

Present: President/Chair – Nathan Sponseller (First State Bank, Stonehouse Inn, Merchant Herald), Vice President – Bill Long (TDS), Communications secretary – Katherine Colwell (Colwell Cedars Retreat), Recording secretary – Tom Wills (Merchant Herald, Wills Gallery and Used Books), Board Member – Rhonda Duclo (Hotchkiss Public Library) Board member- Mary Hockenbery (Church of Art/Mary Hockenbery Photography. Absent: Elaine Brett - Treasurer. Also present: Sue Whittlesey – (High Wire Ranch / Lions Club), and Chris Cox – First State Bank.

President Nathan Sponseller called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the March 26 board meeting were approved with a correction that the Lions Club will match up to an accumulated total of \$500 donated by other organizations to Memorial Hall, not \$400.

There was no Treasurer's report but Nathan gave an overview of account statuses.

Communications Secretary, Katherine Colwell, announced that the paid member total is now 85, a new record for this early in the year. There was some discussion of making sure longstanding members that have not yet renewed are contacted.

Chris Cox, the new president of the First State Bank was introduced. Cox is the son of retired Delta County administrator, Susan Hansen, grew up in Crawford and is happy to be home back in the Valley. Among his goals is to reinvigorate the SBA lending program at the bank.

E-Waste – The E-Waste recycling event is set for mid-day on June 14 at the Fairgrounds. The Chamber has yet to receive the full amount of fee sharing promised from last year but the reorganized company is trying. We received a \$1,000 payment, which was split with the Delta Chamber.

Sheep Dog Trials – May 9-11 – Nathan reported that there was only one unrented yard sale space left in the two First State Bank owned lots on Bridge Street on either side of the old Coyote Drive-in. The Chamber has placed advertising for the overlay weekend events in area publications.

Branding and Ad Campaign – Niki Richardson is working on giving the Chambers ads and planned brochures a unified look. Templates that can be reused and updated are being created.

Downtown Improvement

Tom Wills reported that the basic framework of the Bernie Fair informational structure will be completed this weekend. He submitted supply reimbursements of \$348.27 for cement, gravel and sand, bolts, preservatives use on the project. The Chamber was also directly billed \$241 for sand/gravel mix from Farnsworth's.

So far the project costs, including the cost of the beams from Todd Enterprises, are approximately \$914. This leaves \$586 of the \$1500 Heart and Soul/ Western Colorado Community Foundation grant money. Out of this will come the cost of rebuilding and installing the two sided 6 foot by 4 foot information board, additional signage and weatherproof brochure racks.

In the grant application to Heart and Soul the total project costs were estimated at about \$5,000 and we requested \$3,000, receiving \$1,500. The original estimate was based on hiring much of the work done including the fabrication of a metal leaf roof. We also hoped to have funds to install some additional decorative cement work/sidewalk in the alley.

It appears that by the structure project's end we will have received in-kind donations of labor and materials valued in excess of \$4,000 including:

Richard Sparks Welding and Fabrication – Steel structural brackets and steel leaf roof (made by Ricky Sparks). Installation of top beam and leaf roof with crane. (\$2,500 plus)
Todd Enterprises - \$80- discount on three 12” by 12” by 12’ pine beams
Dustyn Foster - Hotchkiss Trustee – structural engineer – design work and skilled labor on site preparation, structure and concrete work. Coordination with Sparks Welding. Skilled cabinet work on information board. Also donated tool use and supplies.
Tom Wills – supply coordination, Town/Chamber liaison - and general labor on site preparation, structure and concrete work. Painting.
Town of Hotchkiss – barricades/cones and PW staff labor/equipment to move planters as needed in the alley. Plus, approval and support of the overall Bernie Fair project.
Art and Betty Wolverton – donation of stain used on structure and additional planters. (Thanks to the many others who donated paint for future alley beautification murals.)
Gambles/Ace for donations of additional paint.
Larry Jakubiak/North Fork Valley Restaurant/Thirsty Parrot Pub – electric power for tools and general support. (And new patio that brightened up the whole rear alley area.)
Marshal Dan Miller – Construction of original map case/ board.
West Elk Mine/Mountain Coal – mine bolts used as rebar in the concrete pad.

Mary Hockenbery, the “Flower Lady” and downtown improvement committee chair announced that planting day was scheduled for 2 p.m. on May 6. Most plants were sourced locally including from Lost Mesa Flowers (who donated a significant amount) and High Country Gardens. Many planters have been adopted and will be planted and cared for through the season by specific businesses and volunteers. Plantings are moving towards more perennials in the future.

Damaged sign: Thanks go out to TDS for replacing the support poles for the blown down Welcome to Hotchkiss sign on the east end of Town. The sign was not covered by insurance. Nathan and Bill say that the letter board is salvageable, but not the sign itself.

Tom reminded the board that the North Fork Creative Coalition wishes to attach vertical aluminum signs to the sides of the Welcome signs referencing the Creative District designation. There were no objections as long as the mechanics of the attachment are submitted for approval. NFCC will also approach DMEA and the Town about placing banners and brackets on the light poles.

Mary Hockenbery (attended) the Colorado Creative Industries Conference in Salida representing the Chamber. The Chamber covered her registration fee.

Sue Whittlesey of High Wire Ranch announced that she is now an “official” candidate for the DMEA board with her petition being accepted. Sue is a Chamber member of long standing who is also a CPA. She supports the effort to bring faster broadband to the area via DMEA installed fiber optic cable to their substations as well as keeping rates low.

North Fork resident and Delta County Libraries IT manager, John Gavan is also running (for separate the at large seat) on a similar platform.

There will be a business after hours event at Mesa Winds Farm on Rogers Mesa on Wednesday, May 14 from 5 p.m.to 6:30p.m. 31262 L Road Rogers Mesa. Don’t miss this one!

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 a.m..

Respectfully submitted, Tom Wills – Recording Secretary.