

HCCC

HOTCHKISS COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

promoting business & quality of life

Board of Directors Meeting

8:00 a.m. - July 30, 2014 – Hotchkiss Public Library

Present:), Vice President – Bill Long (TDS,) Elaine Brett - Treasure., 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), and Communications secretary – Katherine Colwell (Colwell Cedars Retreat) Absent: President/Chair – Nathan Sponseller (First State Bank, Stonehouse Inn, Merchant Herald). Also present: Amanda Vande Zande – chair Downtown Merchant Committee – Pack Shack

Vice-President Bill Long called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the July 2nd meeting were approved as written and e-mailed.

Amanda Vande Zande of the Pack Shack was introduced. She is the new volunteer promotions coordinator with the Downtown Merchant’s Committee. Amanda would like everyone’s ideas on promotions and especially the annual holiday promotion.

Treasurer, Elaine Brett, reported that the Chamber account balances stood at \$8772.13 in the operating checking account, \$6150.89 in special projects and \$92.80 in Downtown Improvement.

Communications Secretary, Katherine Colwell, reported that the Chamber now has 92 paid members. Welcome to Rocky Mountain Locksmith and Embroidery!

Colwell said that the Public Library asked the Chamber what business related classes they could offer that would be needed or supported. The Library was writing a grant to fund classes. Bill Long (with TDS) thought that IT/technology classes were needed in the area.

A new large Chamber banner has been made and will be hung at the Delta County Fair.

Downtown Improvement:

Mary Hockenbery reported that more of the downtown planters have been adopted by individuals and businesses.

Tom Wills (who serves on the Town Council and Planning Commission) reported that the Town Council had discussed the proposed sign code at a work session on July 23. He said that he had once again explained the Chamber’s concerns about existing projecting signs being at risk as non-conforming to CDOT regulation. The Chamber had asked that the Town consider seeking a formal agreement with CDOT exempting the sidewalk area from their right of way regulations as far as projecting signs and downtown improvements go. So far the Town has been unwilling to begin that process.

A compromise of sorts was reached at the work session. The draft will be changed to note that any projecting sign “may” be subject to CDOT regulation enforcement, but not forcing the applicants to gain CDOT approval as a condition of Town approval. Town staff will also cease sending new sign applicants to CDOT for review. Town

Attorney, Bo Nerlin, said that the Town of Ouray, which has the same CDOT right of way on the sidewalks issue, takes a similar tact.

Mayor Wendell Koontz said that the easement exemption issue might be more properly broached along with a package of other items in several years when a planned reconstruction of Bridge Street takes place. The Town would like to look at replacing the existing light poles, and placing underground electrical power to them at that time along with enhancing the street crossings, all of which will require working in collaboration with CDOT at that time.

Wills also reported that the Planning Commission and Council will be moving forward to complete and adopt the Downtown Improvement and Highway Corridor Improvement Plan which has been underway since January of 2012. He will be sending a draft by e-mail to the board members for review and comment. This should be read closely as it commits the chamber to taking some actions and agreeing to collaboratively work with the Town on the project.

Welcome to Hotchkiss Sign: A bid from Delta Sign Company has been solicited to provide a 10' by 12' panel ready to have artwork applied. The board agreed to allow for up to \$1,000 to hire a local artist residing in the North Fork Creative District to create a sign on the panel. Bill Long volunteered the services of TDS to install the sign on the new posts. A call for artists will be issued soon.

Bill Long will replace the civic club emblems on the sign. He will also approach the Town of Hotchkiss for a donation to help fund the new sign.

New Treasurer/board member needed: Elaine Brett announced that she will be leaving the Chamber board before the end of the year. She suggested that perhaps a paid bookkeeper should be considered.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday August 27 at 8a.m. at the Hotchkiss Public Library, downstairs.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Wills – Recording Secretary