

HCCC

HOTCHKISS COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

promoting business & quality of life

Hotchkiss Community Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors Meeting

8:00 a.m. - July 2, 2014 – Hotchkiss Public Library

Present: President/Chair – Nathan Sponseller (First State Bank, Stonehouse Inn, Merchant Herald), Vice President – Bill Long (TDS), 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: Elaine Brett - Treasurer. Also present: Sue Whittlesey – High Wire Ranch and Tracy Innot -Edward Jones.

President Nathan Sponseller called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the May meeting were approved as amended including the addition of TDS as an E-Waste event sponsor (corrected before minutes were e-mailed).

There were numerous questions about the printed treasurer's report and in the absence of Elaine Brett approval was deferred until the next meeting.

Communications Secretary, Katherine Colwell, reported that the Chamber now has 90 paid members for 2014. She is ironing out a few last issues with the Constant Contact e-mails and everyone is pleased with receiving Chamber and community information on a regular basis in that format.

She also reported that Aurora (Colorado) Magazine had done a nice story on Hotchkiss in their June 2014 issues and sent the Chamber several copies.

E-Waste Event – Nathan reported that the June 14 event at the Fairgrounds was very successful with about 20,000 pounds of electronics being recycled. The Chamber made a modest \$400 as their share of fees collected. It was agreed that the event held in partnership with the Conservation Center was a great benefit to the community. There was some discussion of expanding the event to the collection of other hazardous items such as expired prescription drugs and solvents.

Mary Hockenbery suggested that the event be coordinated with the annual Hotchkiss Spring Clean-up. One advantage of this would be combined publicity for the two events.

Downtown Improvement: Mary Hockenbery (Downtown Flower Coordinator) continues to keep the planters looking great with the help of volunteers and businesses. The Barnie Fair Alley Planters and table have been reconfigured at the request of Larry Jakubiak at the North Fork Valley Restaurant.

East Entrance Sign Replacement: So far TDS has replaced the support posts (Thanks TDS and Bill Long!) and the message board is back in place. It was agreed that Bill Long and Mary Hockenbery will be the committee to seek proposals for area artist and sign painters to make a new sign. The Chamber would like something striking and memorable. And durable.

Brochure: A mockup of a new Chamber brochure made by Niki Richardson was passed around. The board generally liked the concept.

Board Expansion - There was a discussion of possibly expanding the number of members on the board from the current seven to higher number—perhaps up to twelve. The board felt that it was a good idea but making it happen will require a vote of the membership making that change to the bylaws at the annual meeting. Draft language will be drawn up and circulated.

Ameri-Corp Volunteer - Nathan brought up the possibility of the Chamber making use of an Ameri-Corp volunteer to do promotional and administrative work. Such a volunteer might be a way to have an affordable joint chamber administrator. Nathan will talk with Sarah Sauter of the Conservation Center, which has had a steady rotation of such volunteers.

Flag Placement on Holidays: Nathan reported that the Chamber had been approached inquiring if the downtown businesses could be encouraged to display American flags on appropriate holidays.

Previously the Hotchkiss Boy Scouts had placed the flags and had the bracket holes installed in the sidewalks as a fundraiser for the local troop. They no longer do that.

There was a discussion of another local organization taking over that function. Sue Whittlesey will talk to the Lion's Club as well as to Bob Leigh of the Kiwanis who brought up the issue.

Deltarado Days: Bill Long announced that his band North Fork Country will be playing for the street dance at Deltarado Days on Friday July 18 from 8-11p.m. Everyone is encouraged to support Deltarado Days as another of our county festivals that draw visitors to the area and strengthen community.

Mary reported that the **Chip Thomas photo mural** on the back of the Church of Art was the subject of the KVNF story that was picked up and played by stations statewide.

Respectfully submitted.

Tom Wills, Recording Secretary.

