

HCCC

HOTCHKISS COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

promoting business & quality of life

Hotchkiss Community Chamber of Commerce

Board of Directors – March 26, 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. Absent: Board member - Mary Hockenbery (Church of Art/Mary Hockenbery Photography) and Elaine Brett - Treasurer. Also present: Sue Whittlesey – High Wire Ranch / Lions Club, and Tracy Innot – Edward Jones.

President Nathan Sponseller called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved as written.

There was no Treasurer's report.

Kathy Innot, new at Edward Jones, introduced herself. The business will be holding an open house on Friday, May 9 of the Sheepdog Trials from 3-5 p.m. to introduce Tracy and the business to the public. She would like to business to be more involved in the community and Chamber.

Communications Secretary, Katherine Colwell, reported that the Chamber is up to 73 paid members so far with a second membership mailing just going out. Unpaid members will soon be deleted from the on-line business directory.

Katherine requested that she and Rhonda be added as administrators with posting privileges on the Hotchkiss is Happening Facebook page. Tom will add them as soon as they sign up on Facebook.

Sue Whittlesey of High Wire Ranch and the Hotchkiss Lion's Club announced that she would be seeking a seat on the DMEA board. Among her many skills, Sue is a certified public accountant and feels that someone with that background is needed on the board. The election vote will be announced on June 12.

Sue also announced that the Hotchkiss Lions Club is challenging other community organizations to donate to Memorial Hall. The Lions will match donations up to a total of \$400. Sue's husband, Dave, and fellow Lion, is now on the Memorial Hall Board.

Downtown Improvement - Tom Wills asked that the Chamber's budgeted contribution for 2014 be clarified. The draft budget reflected only the \$1,500 from Heart and Soul that is earmarked for the Barnie Fair information board structure. The Chamber budgeted \$2,000 in 2013 for downtown improvement and spent about \$1,300 of that amount along with numerous member and community donations of materials and labor. The Chamber will need to contribute a share of the flower costs to match Town contributions. After some discussion Tom moved to budget \$1,000, including the 2013 carryover, for general downtown improvement in 2014. The motion was seconded and approved with all in favor.

In discussion of other improvement items including work in the Barnie Fair Alley Park Katherine offered the use of her husband's cement mixer and Nathan knows of another that might be available.

CDOT Easement Issue: Tom Wills (who is also Chairman of the Hotchkiss Planning Commission and a Hotchkiss Trustee-elect) asked the Chamber board for a letter of support asking the Town to enter into negotiations with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) to reduce their right-of-way in the central business district from 80 feet (property line to property line) to 60 feet (curb to curb). This is necessary to clarify jurisdiction over business signs and structures that extend out over the sidewalk. Technically anything placed over the private property lines, trees, utility poles, flower planters, flags and banners etc. is in the CDOT right of way and could be removed by them. Tom is asking for a formal intergovernmental agreement either legally reducing the width of the right-of-way to exclude the sidewalks, or to grant in writing an exemption from CDOT regulation for the sidewalk area, placing the jurisdiction regarding signs and other items in the Town's hands. The Chamber would prefer the former.

This is necessary to protect existing business signs, allow for future projecting business signs, banners etc. and for the Town to simplify their draft sign code.

The sending of the letter signed by Nathan was approved unanimously. Tom will produce a draft and sent to Nathan for approval and placing in official stationary format.

2014 Budget: The board adopted the 2014 Chamber budget with the downtown improvement allocation added.

The next Chamber Board meeting will be at 8 a.m on April 30 at the Hotchkiss Public Library.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Wills – Recording Secretary