

HCCC

HOTCHKISS COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

promoting business & quality of life

Board of Directors Meeting – October 29, 2014

Present: President- Nathan Sponseller (First State Bank/Merchant Herald/Stonehouse Inn), Recording Secretary- Tom Wills (Wills Gallery and Books/Merchant Herald), Mary Hockenbery (Mary Hockenbery Photography/Church of Art), Rhonda Duclo (Hotchkiss Public Library), Vice President – Bill Long (TDS Telecom), Communications Secretary – Katherine Colwell (Colwell Cedars Retreat), Treasurer – Elaine Brett, Kim Shay (Gambles Ace Hardware) and Sue Whittlesey (High Wire Ranch).

President Nathan Sponseller called the meeting to order and the minutes of the September meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report

It was reported that the total combined Chamber bank accounts stood at \$13,973.01 including: General Checking - \$7,529.32, Special projects - \$6,150.89 and Downtown Merchants/Improvement - \$282.80. Rhonda Duclo moved that the report be accepted. All were in favor.

Corresponding Secretary's Report

Katherine Colwell reported that DCED had asked for local photos for their updated website and a selection of pictures was sent. There was an inquiry about advertising on the website, something the Chamber doesn't currently offer other than member listings.

Katherine has been working with Nikole James, a local website marketing expert and was very impressed with an initial free consultation with her. It was agreed to spend \$75 on an additional consultation with Katherine and Nicole working together. Nathan will also attend and observe the session.

Post cards for the Jon Schallert marketing workshop/joint Chamber symposium on Saturday, November 15 will be sent out to the membership.

Downtown Improvement

Mary Hockenbery attended Colorado Creative Industries (CCI) leadership training in Denver. She is working on a proposal for an art project in downtown Hotchkiss. CCI will be providing \$500 in matching funds and Mary asked that the Chamber consider helping with the match.

Kim Shay from Gambles/Ace Hardware explained that the two trees in front of her business were recently removed due to disease, future sidewalk damage and winter ice issues. She plans to install decorative metal trees, or something similarly attractive, once it is clear that installation will not conflict with a planned CDOT reconstruction of Bridge Street. Tom pointed out that the construction probably would not take place for at least three to five years and suggested that there should be minimal conflict if new installations did not extend past the curb-line.

Welcome to Hotchkiss Sign Replacement – Call for Artists

The Board reviewed a written proposal from Mary Hockenbery for a call for Hotchkiss and Valley artists to submit designs and bids for doing a Welcome to Hotchkiss sign to replace the wind damaged one on the east Hwy 133 end of town. A pre-made 10 by 12 foot panel is being provided to the artist. The maximum bid cannot exceed \$1,000. The selected design will be durable, eye catching, creative and colorful; something that would seem appropriate for both the Friendliest Town Around and the gateway for the North Fork Creative District.

The deadline to get designs in will be the end of November.

New Board Members for 2015

It was announced that Carrie Yantzer of the K-8 School and Sue Whittlesey of High Wire Ranch will be on the ballot at the November 12 Annual Meeting to fill two of the four board seats available. Elaine Brett, Tom Wills and Rhonda Duclo are stepping down this year. [Note from President Sponseller: Rhonda Duclo and Katherine Colwell have agreed to remain on the ballot for the seats they have occupied.]

The Chamber's Annual Meeting will take place this year on Wednesday, November 12, 5-7 p.m. at the Hotchkiss Elk's Lodge, a loyal member of the Chamber for many years. The event is open to Chamber members, their employees and the interested public. The evening should be a fun social occasion featuring the presentation of the Business, Non-Profit, and Citizen of the Year awards and a few annual Chamber business items as well. Awards are: Business of the Year (Gamble/ Ace Hardware) and Hotchkiss Citizen(s) of the Year (Peace Circle of the Hotchkiss Community United Methodist Church – which operates the Wear House Thrift Shop) and Non-Profit of the Year (Hotchkiss Elks – BPOE 1807).

November 22 Set For Hotchkiss Holidays Kickoff: Chamber Craft Show, Church of Art Bazaar, Senior Center Craft Show, and Creamery.

The Hotchkiss Chambers Annual Arts, Crafts and Business Fair will take place on Saturday November 22 from 9-4 p.m. at Memorial Hall. The show spaces are sold out as usual. There will be a door prize drawing in the Addams Room and lunch will be offered.

On the same day the Hotchkiss Church of Art at First and Main across from Memorial Hall is holding an Art Bazaar, so be sure and stop in there as well as at the Creamery and other businesses.

Then, just two easy blocks west, the Hotchkiss Senior Center at Town Hall will present their annual Craft Fair/Flea Market and Sloppy Joe Lunch. Table spaces may still be available at this venue. A fun event with a long tradition. Contact John or Billie Marta for information. 872-2127

Other items:

The joint membership renewal/recruitment mailing will go out in early December.

A Ride the Rockies organizer has contacted the Chamber regarding the Chambers willingness to help host the event again. Nothing definite just exploring the possibilities for a 2015 route and host towns.

The next meeting of the Chamber will be early due to the Holidays, on November 19 at 8:00 p.m. in the basement of the Hotchkiss Public Library.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Wills – Recording Secretary.