

# HCCC

HOTCHKISS COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

promoting business & quality of life

## Board of Directors Meeting

8:00 a.m. - August 27, 2014 – Hotchkiss Public Library

*Present: President/Chair – Nathan Sponseller (First State Bank, Stonehouse Inn, Merchant Herald), Elaine Brett - Treasurer, Recording secretary – Tom Wills at 8:30 a.m. (Merchant Herald, Wills Gallery and Used Books, Town of Hotchkiss), Board Member – Rhonda Duclou (Hotchkiss Public Library,) and Communications secretary – Katherine Colwell (Colwell Cedars Retreat), Tim Gonzales (Back Country Goods,), Tracy Ihnot and Anna St. Peter (Edward Jones) and Anthony Russo – (Delta County Library District). Board members absent: Vice President – Bill Long (TDS), Board member- Mary Hockenbery (Church of Art/Mary Hockenbery Photography).*

### **Minutes of the July 30 meeting:**

Elaine moved to approve as written and e-mailed, Colwell second, passed.

### **Treasurer's report:**

Elaine Brett presented report: Account statuses were as follows:

General Checking: 7586.62

Special Projects: 6150.89

Downtown: 292.80

Total: 14,030.31

Rhonda moved to approve, Colwell second, passed.

### **Corresponding Secretary's report.**

Membership remains at 92. Tuesday Info and Links email items are being picked up and shared in other e-newsletters and print media, and positive response continues from members when meeting face-to-face.

Attended Social Media workshop hosted by Region 10 and DACC on August 26th, presented by Nikole James, web copy specialist located in Cedaredge; attendance includes free consultation for business/chamber social media (scheduled for Sept 9).

### **Library Classes**

Anthony Russo of the Delta County Library District gave a presentation on the Library District's plans to offer classes relevant to the business community.

### **Valley Chamber Symposium**

Elaine Brett announced that the next Valley Chamber symposium will be November 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Paradise Theatre in Paonia. The symposium will center around the subject of Destination Marketing and will feature internationally known speaker/business consultant, John Schallert. Mark the date.

**Downtown Improvement:**

Tom Wills reminded the board members 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. 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.

Some items included in the plan, such as downtown beautification/place-making have been underway over the last three years. These include the new flower planters and the development of the Bernie Fair Alley park.

**Welcome to Hotchkiss Sign:**

A bid from Colorado Sign Studio, in Delta, has been solicited to provide a 10' by 12' panel ready to have artwork applied. The board previously 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 has replaced the civic club emblems on the sign. The Chamber (Nathan) will approach the Town of Hotchkiss at their September meeting for a donation to help fund the new sign.

**Neighborhood Watch**

Tom Wills reported that the Hotchkiss Neighborhood Watch program is being revitalized. Although the program is generally centered on increasing public awareness and reducing crime in residential neighborhoods he asked for thoughts on how the Chamber and business community might aid in furthering the program. Business people are encouraged to report all suspicious activity that is observed as well as minor thefts that you might just shrug off. It is important for the Marshal's office to have the information if only to determine trends in criminal activity. The program's official advisor/liaison with the Marshal's office is Deputy Gates Shaklee. *(Note: There will be a HNW Town Block Party cookout at the Willow Heights Park on September 21 at 4 p.m. All business folks as well as all residents are encouraged to attend.)*

**Annual Meeting:**

It was confirmed that the Chamber's Annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 12 at the Hotchkiss Elk's Lodge.

**Other:**

Katherine Colwell attended the Pickles and Pickleball pickle canning event at the Redlands Mesa Grange. She would like to include the Community Kitchen Preserves! organization in the Chamber.

CSU has offered the use of the Rogers Mesa Research station property to Delta County. Ideas would be welcome. Delta County has received a \$245,000 grant through DOLA to devise ways of mitigating the impacts of the recent Oxbow Elk Creek mine closing.

The next meeting of the Hotchkiss Chamber Board will be held on Wednesday, September 24 at 8 a.m. at the Hotchkiss Public Library, downstairs.

*Respectfully submitted, Tom Wills – Recording Secretary*