

HCCC

HOTCHKISS COMMUNITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

promoting business & quality of life

Regular Board Meeting Minutes Wheeler Room, Memorial Hall 02/24/2016

Present:

Board Members: Nathan Sponseller, Bill Long, Katherine Colwell, Robbie Winne, Tracy Ihnot, Sue Whittlesey, Carrie Yantzer arrived late.

Members: Mary Hockenbery, Marsy Moore, Lynda Cannon, Thomas Wills, Gloria Crank and Lenore Cambria.

Guest: Lorraine Mees.

- The Board meeting was called to order by President Sponseller at 8:32am.
- The minutes for the 2/24/2016 Executive Session had been compiled by interim Recording Secretary, Nathan Sponseller, and emailed to the Board in advance of the Board Meeting. Minutes were presented to Board members and no modifications were offered from the floor. Whittlesey moved, and Ihnot seconded approval of minutes; motion carried by unanimous consent.
- The Treasurer's Report, reflecting January 2016, and 2016 year-to-date figures, were compiled by Treasurer, Sue Whittlesey. These were emailed to the Board in advance of the Board Meeting. Whittlesey presented a paper copy to attendees of the board meeting. There were no questions or modifications offered from the floor. Long moved, and Ihnot seconded approval of Treasurer's Report; motion carried by unanimous consent.
- The Communications Secretary Report was presented by Communications Secretary, Katherine Colwell. Colwell reported that she had met by phone with Alowetta Terrien of Thin Air Web, the Chamber's webhost, and that website re-design and responsive design changes for HotchkissChamber.com are tentatively scheduled to be completed by mid-April.
- In "Presentations", member, Church of Art owner, and Hotchkiss Town Council candidate, Mary Hockenbery, gave a presentation on the citizen initiative she has placed on the upcoming Hotchkiss Municipal ballot in April. The initiative concerns asking the citizens of Hotchkiss to approve medical and recreational marijuana retail sales within the Town of Hotchkiss, as well as approval of related grow and production facilities, and the ability of the Town to regulate and tax such operations. Hockenbery recited her rationale for supporting this initiative and answered a number of questions from those assembled. Hockenbery did not ask for Chamber support knowing that the Chamber has by-law restrictions from such involvement in issues of a political nature.
- Also in "Presentations", Marsy Moore and Lynda Cannon, both Chamber members and co-organizers of the newly conceived Farm to Fiddle Festival, provided background and updates on the festival, planned for August 12-13 in downtown Hotchkiss, and coinciding with the final weekend of the Delta County Fair. There was a wide-ranging discussion and many questions from those in attendance. At the end of the discussion it was moved by Whittlesey and seconded by Long that the Chamber become a \$500 sponsor of the event; motion carried by unanimous consent.
- In "Old Business", Whittlesey reported on the successful, February 18 Business Property Tax forum sponsored by the Chamber and facilitated by Delta County Assessor, Debbie Griffith. Whittlesey reported that attendance was between 20-25 and that attendees provided positive feedback, with Griffith offering to facilitate future, and possibly semi-regular, events on this topic. Whittlesey was thanked by the Board for her work to make this forum possible.
- In "Old Business", the "Photo Face Cut Out Prop" discussion was postponed due to time constraints.

- In “Old Business”, an update was given by Sponseller on the proposed April 30 E-waste collection event, which has been briefly discussed since the December Board meeting. Sponseller reported that Recla Metals of Montrose could accept all electronic waste with the exception of items with screens (computer monitors and televisions). Recla Metals would charge a fee of \$300 to drop off and pick up bins to haul the waste and would pay 1 cent per pound for waste. Sponseller had not yet received a reply from Double J Disposal about the possibility of involving them in the collection of computer monitors and televisions. Sponseller promised to follow up on details and to report at the next Executive Session. Medicine and prescriptions were also a possibility to include; Sponseller will contact Marshal's office.
- In “New Business”, Sponseller reported that he had been contacted by Eddie O’Brien with the Colorado Grand who stated that the Grand was planning to stop for lunch in Paonia on Tuesday, September 13 and also stop in Hotchkiss for lunch on Friday, September 16. Sponseller noted that this is a great fundraiser for the Chamber and also allows the Chamber to offer a scholarship to a Hotchkiss High School student. Sponseller reported that he committed on behalf of the Chamber to hosting this event.
- In “New Business”, Ihnot noted that she had developed a rubric for grading the 2015 Colorado Grand scholarship and asked the board to review this rubric and get back to her. Ihnot, Sponseller and Winne comprise the scholarship selection committee.
- In “Committee Reports”, Ihnot reported that the Town contacted her asking for more “New Neighbor Welcome Bags” and that she would provide those requested bags. She also noted that she had received a complaint from one bag recipient that a coupon provided had expired. Ihnot suggested that future bags contain only coupons with no expiration date – or if a date is necessary, that dates should be a couple years out.
- In “Committee Reports”, Mary Hockenbery gave an update on the 2016 downtown flower project and requested support from the Chamber to fund the project (which is jointly funded with the Town of Hotchkiss). Whittlesey reported that in 2015 the Chamber provided \$500 towards the project and that the same amount had been set aside in the budget for 2016. Hockenbery reported that due to the Stock Dog Trials/Mothers Day weekend being early this year, the 2016 flower planting will not be done before the Dog Trials.
- In “Announcements”, Lenore Cambria had three items:
 1. Announced an upcoming theatre production at Hotchkiss High School scheduled for April 14-15. The musically-enhanced production is entitled, “Mutually Assured Destruction”.
 2. Requested that the Hotchkiss map created for Ride the Rockies be updated to include the Pool.
 3. That the NF Pool and Rec District would like to host a Business After Hours. She and Ihnot will work on date and planning.
- In “Announcements”, Sponseller reported that the next regular Board Meeting would be held in the Wheeler Room of Memorial Hall at 8:30am on April 27.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nathan R. Sponseller, President and interim Recording Secretary