

# Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce Minutes

## April 4, 2020

Financial report: Checking, \$3303.18; savings, \$7210.69.

Due to the 'shelter in place' order the meeting was begun via email exchanges during the week before. Susan moved and Sharon seconded that a scholarship again be provided to each of the two school districts, Rio Dell and Scotia, to graduating 8<sup>th</sup> graders selected by teachers at the respective schools. The amount is to be \$100 per school, an increase of \$50 per school over past years, which is typically awarded to two students (now to be \$50 each) at each school at graduation.

The motion passed.

Jim forwarded the draft letter concerning the chamber's wish to help upgrade some Wildwood Avenue homes and businesses with a fresh coat of paint, to Kevin Caldwell, economic development director, and Kyle Knopp, city manager, at the City of Rio Dell. Kevin said the letter was good and recommended it be sent to the nuisance committee and city council members, which remains to be done. The letter is envisioned to be sent to the owners of four Wildwood Avenue properties that were identified initially as benefitting from such an upgrade.

Board email discussion that followed concerning the timing of this effort leaned towards putting it off until the pandemic had passed, as it would be difficult to manage 'social distancing' while working on painting, if a homeowner sought to have the project go forward on his/her property, and because it is a difficult time financially to seek donations of paint from the home owners or other sources.

Nick set up a meeting on Zoom for the board to continue its discussion on Friday, April 3 at noon, but technological difficulties moved the meeting to a phone conference Saturday, April 4. Present: Nick Angeloff, president; Jim Brickley, vice-president; Sharon Holt; Susan Pryor; and Tracy O'Connell, secretary. Absent: Gabriel Smith.

Discussion focused on the plan to have flags displayed throughout the community on holidays. They need to be 3 by 5 feet, nylon for exterior use, and made in the U.S. Various price updates in quantities of 50 will be sought this week: Susan will check with the Fortuna Chamber; Tracy with Gobles Mortuary where flags are given to the families of deceased veterans; and Jim with Root 101 where owner Harry Smith is a member of the VFW. It was discussed that in addition to existing flag pole holes, additional ones might be needed to even out the spacing; that they would be placed where they could be approved by property owners if sidewalk holes needed to be cut; and that some might be in lawns along the sidewalk at the north end of town.

Additional discussion addressed how the poles would fit, be secured against wind/damage/theft, have inscriptions for those that are purchased by others in honor of someone/a business, and be lighted for those cases where they were to stay up after dark for weekend-long celebrations.

Jim is planning to move ahead to update the sign at the foot of the off-ramp at Scotia directing people to the services in Rio Dell and Scotia; he said the application for funds for a mural will be due in August. Nick said the city map was updated and he would work on the 501.c.3 application next.

Sharon will provide a sample application to accompany the proposed policy for chamber usage, which would reflect the contact people/key distribution, a way to vet future requests that didn't involve the entire chamber board, and suggested the need for a master calendar on the web site showing when the building was in use. She said the Wildwood Days meetings have been cancelled through April due to the pandemic.

The meeting ended at 1 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy O'Connell, Secretary