

Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors Meeting

February 7, 2020

Present: Nick Angeloff, president, by phone; Jim Brickley, vice-president; Tracy O'Connell, secretary; and board members Sharon Holt and Gabriel Smith. Excused: Susan Pryor. Guests: members Julie Woodall; Eldon and Maggie Whitehead of Fortuna; and Kelli Schmidt, assistant branch manager, and Shay Lenardo, personal banker, from Tri Counties Bank which is joining the chamber as a new member.

The meeting was called to order at 12 noon.

The financial report as of Feb. 1: savings, \$7,210.69 and checking, \$7,330.48.

Discussion included

1 - Taking down the lights from the trees in Memorial Park, which Nick said he could manage alone. (Note: via Facebook, Brad and Su Harrington on Cherry Lane offered to help take down the lights.)

2 – Decorating Wildwood Avenue for summer holiday/celebration weekends such as Memorial Day, July 4, Wildwood Days and Labor Day. An earlier suggestion of using the lighted Christmas star decorations during these times was rejected as the late darkness did not allow enough benefit from the lights. Instead, a plan was developed to purchase U.S. flags from a source such as Costco which come mounted on poles; adjusting them to fit in existing holes in the sidewalk, and putting names on the poles of the sponsor of each flag. An initial estimate of \$50 per flag was envisioned to cover the cost to the chamber. Three orders from those present launched the project, with the goal of 50 or more flags standing along Wildwood after a period to promote the effort and for people/businesses to purchase a flag. Sharon will coordinate with Nick to move the plan forward.

3 – The parade for the 50th Wildwood Days celebration.

A - Julie Woodall mentioned in advance that Doris Johnson and Vivian from DJ's Burger Bar were interested in being on the planning committee for the parade this year, with ideas to make it special because it is the 50th anniversary of the celebration. Sharon, Jim and Susan typically have leadership roles, with Susan getting judges and prizes, Sharon being in contact with the fire department and coordinating the sign-ins and Jim getting the chamber float together. Tracy is to contact Doris about when she and Vivian can meet with the chamber committee to coordinate plans, and report that out.

B – Eldon Whitehead called attention to his role with several historic Facebook pages and how he has continued to populate the Chamber’s history page. It was suggested he work with others who have past Wildwood Days photos such as Carol Hill of Rio Dell to populate the chamber history page, for instance calling attention to this being the 50th year of the celebration, and ‘here are some photos from XXXX year.’

4 – **The sign on the chamber roof was damaged in a wind storm.** Nick and Jim are discussing ways to repair/replace it. They will look at it more closely when they have to lift available for taking down the tree lights in Memorial Park.

5 – **The chamber will manage funds gathered by the City of Rio Dell** to assist new residents of the Danco property. This 25-unit, low-income housing development has people moving in now and individuals wanting to extend a hand to the residents – some of whom have been homeless – are planning to donate funds to purchase needed household goods. The chamber will develop a special account to manage the in-and-out of funds for this purpose.

6 – **Jim is exploring funds from the McLean Foundation** to fund a mural on the side wall of the chamber, to be done by a local artist.

7 – **The next quarterly mixer will be in May** at the chamber and invite the community interested in making a splash with homes this Christmas season and, by extension, in other times (such as promoting the flag project for summer, painting and other visual upgrades to properties such as Jim promotes, etc.). There are allegedly 60 people who have shown interest in doing expanded exterior lighting displays in support of the city’s goal of making the community a holiday lighting destination, so the idea of this mixer is inviting those and others with similar interests to plan, develop guidelines for lighting competitions, etc. Tracy will communicate with the people initially interested, set a date, and promote . . . more to come.

8 - **The otter statue approved at the last meeting has been purchased** and will be delivered to Rio Dell in May, Nick believes. It is part of a county-wide tourism campaign to get people traveling around to photograph themselves with various otters. Nick will meet with area businesses and work out a timetable by which the otter will be moved, and its location promoted, so visitors will be incented to go into participating businesses to see the statue.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy O’Connell, Secretary

