Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m. Present: Jim Brickley, vice president; Tracy O'Connell, secretary; board members Susan Pryor and Sharon Holt. Absent: Nick Angeloff and Gabriel Smith. Guest: Julie Woodall.

Tracy announced that according to Melissa Marks, the IRS has agreed to re-instate our 501.c.6 status as a non-profit, which had lapsed without our awareness.

There is $7210.69 in the chamber's savings account and $7578.37 in checking.

Proper Wellness is handling its own grand opening next Sat., March 14, with a barbeque, and its doors are now open.

What about Melissa James – is someone working with her to plan her grand opening event St. Patrick's Day?

Discussion touched on the chamber's sign at the Scotia off-ramp that needs updating. Susan said to contact Steve Dickey at 764-4215 to see if permission needs to be granted from the Town of Scotia when updating the sign.

Discussion included several aspects of community beautification:

It does not seem possible to obtain grants for the proposed mural until we complete the ownership of the 501.c.3 paperwork from the non-profit Nick has talked about as that is in the McLean Foundation material as a requirement for funding, so this project is on hold.

Jim will contact Francesca Cumero, president of the Eagle Prairie Art District, to see what is happening with the frames that were built by the High Tower prisoner camp in Weott to hold weather-safe prints of the works of local artists. The frames need to not be on the media of Wildwood, but could be placed in locations like Memorial Park, Triangle Park, Firemen's Park and the city hall lawn.

Susan offered to purchase a flag as part of the effort to have banners displayed on Wildwood on holidays such as Memorial Day weekend, July 4, Veterans Day, etc. That makes four flags sold.

The board addressed the plan to seek permission to paint buildings on Wildwood that were in need of an upgrade, and addressed next steps such as speaking to Kevin Caldwell at City Hall. The larger issue of community blights and the effect that has on home sales, business, and tourism in the area was discussed, with the recommendation that a letter to the city council be drafted putting forward the chamber's position that more be done to address unsightly and unsafe situations.

Tracy described an envisioned May 8 event at the chamber from 6-8 p.m. to which people in both towns would be invited and encouraged to form committees to address their areas of interest

which would include holiday lighting in their homes with a competition and prizes; assisting in lighting the downtown area; participating in the community painting project; and donating to the flag project. Contact information can be gathered and groups formed where sufficient interest exists to carry the projects forward. Sharon has ideas and input about this as well.

The chamber board voted to add $100 to the Danco project fund to help the residents of the homes become settled. Jim moved, Susan seconded and the motion passed.   Julie indicated she intended to add her $100 to the fund, which would be $400 total with matching funds coming from Danco. Julie will meet with Kyle at the city hall to see if there are more funds coming and sew up the project so housewarming baskets (26 units with $800 to spend would equal $30 each) can be procured. She has also received free bus passes that can be included.

The chamber facilities use policy was discussed, with pro/con ideas about requesting a fee for use and/or a deposit that could be returned if no harm is done to the building. A form would need to be developed and a process to make it available (on the website? In the office?) for people wishing to use the facility.

The sign on the roof of the chamber which was damaged in a storm, was discussed. Susan stressed that the sign belongs to the landlord who needs to be involved in a decision about how to solve the issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy O'Connell
Secretary