

Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce Minutes

May 7, 2021

Present on conference call: President Nick Angeloff, Vice President Jim Brickley, Sharon Holt, Susan Pryor and Tracy O'Connell, Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m.

Discussion centered on what was needed to ready the flag locations for Memorial Day, May 31. About 20 new holes need to be dug and cement poured to hold the pipes that keep the flag poles standing upright; additionally, the existing holes were adapted to hold the Christmas decoration cut-outs and pieces of wood remain wedged in some from that usage. Jim and Nick are to work on getting the pole holders unjammed this weekend with the goal of pouring cement for the new holes next weekend.

Jim reported that there are about two dozen veterans whose photos and information have been submitted for the veterans' salute that will be posted on the City Hall lawn Memorial Day weekend.

The possibility of pouring cement for the kiosk footings at the same time was discussed. The promised sponsorship funding has not been received; Nick followed up with his contact. The chamber has not received word if the locations approved by the ad hoc city committee for the kiosks have been approved by the full board. Tracy contacted Kyle the city manager who will check when the city clerk returns next week. Jim is looking into additional photos to flesh out the displays in the first two kiosks.

Sharon reported that she is in the process of developing an outline of material to go on the proposed chamber web page of information for travelers to the area.

Susan said the fire department is planning on Wildwood Days and Lisa Wilson is putting together the Covid plan which she hopes to send to the county health department within a week for approval.

Discussion touched on whether the chamber should be reopened, when, and how, given Covid protection requirements. The cost of running the chamber facility and the diminished use it has had in recent years compared to other times led to the question whether the chamber should continue to fund the facility at \$1,000/month for rent, utilities and other expenses, as opposed to renting or purchasing storage containers for the chamber's supplies, flags and Christmas ornaments. With the more than \$10,000 saved per year, facilities could be rented when needed for events.

Sharon said she believed the continued concern about Covid would place a burden on the chamber to open any time soon and that she was not in favor of keeping the chamber facility open, but we should look into alternatives. Jim said he would investigate locations like Root 101 where there could be room to place the storage containers in the back yard and to see if it was conceivable, as well as the cost to rent or buy storage containers. Seeking another renter is another option.

The call adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy O'Connell, Secretary