

# **Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce April Board Meeting April 7, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 12:09 p.m. Present: Nick Angeloff, president and Jim Brickley, vice president, by phone; members Susan Pryor, Sarah Reback, and Tracy O'Connell (secretary), in person with city council liaison Amanda Carter and guest Julie Woodall.

Susan moved and Jim seconded to approve the monthly check register of payments; the motion passed.

Tracy said that Redwood Coast Energy Authority was to conduct a free audit of the chamber for the potential of saving money with free or low-cost energy-efficient upgrades; a date for this was to be set by the technician doing the audit.

Members discussed a theme for the Wildwood Days parade that would tie in with the fire department's western vibe, and approved "Back in the Saddle Again," suggested among others by Susan Pryor.

Discussion turned to the chamber float, and Amanda said she could teach line dancing to children who would perform a simple routine on the float throughout the parade route to recorded music, with the children dressed in kerchiefs, jeans and other typical western-type wear. She plans to set up a couple times in the weeks before the parade when children could get together with her at the fire hall to learn the dance.

Jim is to line up the flatbed trailer that would be needed as a float and a rig to haul it. Sarah suggested hay bales around the edges to provide a barrier against falling off. Tracy will revise the flier and application and put notice of the theme and call for entries in the newsletter. Sarah said she would use her community contacts to encourage additional entries. Jim mentioned car clubs and others he can reach out to, to boost participation in the parade. Susan suggested that kerchiefs might be bought at the Dollar General for \$1 each and handed out to participants as ice cream cones were last year, to first respondents.

Nick asked for the chamber to consider being a fiscal sponsor for the earthquake recovery work being planned for Rio Dell. He explained that it would involve running funds gathered by others through various grants and donors through an account already established for the purpose, and writing checks to disburse them. Nick Bown-Crawford, interim head of the Long-Term Recovery Group overseeing the recovery, will manage and track the disbursements.

Nick Angeloff explained that the chamber's help was requested as the effort requires a non-governmental organization and others are already fully tasked in related aspects of the recovery. Sarah moved and Tracy seconded approval, which passed. The board agreed they should not charge a fee for the management of the funds. Susan will ask the credit union for free checks to use in the disbursement of monies, and Nick said he would pay for them if that was needed.

In related discussion, Nick said he is donating the use of this office for case management, which is scheduled to start possibly within a week, when people from organizations assisting in the earthquake recovery such as Arcata House Partnership will need to meet with people seeking assistance to rebuild their homes which in some situations might require a confidential setting to discuss needs.

Nick, Susan and Jim discussed chamber projects that need to be completed such as the cleaning out of the flag pole holders in Rio Dell, putting up the remaining flags in Scotia and completing the kiosk placements. All of this requires weather that so far this year has not cooperated.

Susan said the fire department's annual Mothers' Day pancake breakfast will be held 8 to 11 a.m. on Mother's Day, May 14, at the fire hall. The cost is \$10 each for all ages.

Amanda discussed the city's pride, beautification and walkability projects which include a possible mural on the water tank and a reboot of the community garden.

The meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy O'Connell, secretary