

Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce

Minutes Sept. 1, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 12:19 p.m. Present: President Nick Angeloff (by phone); Vice-president Jim Brickley; Secretary Tracy O'Connell; Member Susan Pryor; City Council liaison Amanda Carter, and visitors Aundrea Vaughn, Jose Beltran, and Patrick Reeves.

Tracy moved approval of the monthly check register, Nick seconded, and the motion passed.

Members discussed the renewal of the lease agreement with the Rio Dell Community Resource Center. Nick said he was in discussion with Sharon Hunter, a person at Providence, the funding organization, and would have a proposal ahead of the October 1 lease renewal, that reflects the much higher energy costs than were anticipated the year before when the lease was first signed. He hoped the revised figures for the proposed new lease would enable the chamber to recover the costs it has absorbed for many months. The resource center is unable to pay for its own utility costs because of the way it is organized and funded, he said.

It was determined that a bill under discussion as possibly a duplicate, was in fact in need of being paid, for expenses following the earthquake, to Root 101.

Discussion of the Wildwood Days parade centered on how much the Clydesdales added with their showy carts; how hard it is to get organizations and businesses that participate in other parades to also join the one in Rio Dell; the difficulty even with a mic and sound system for the emcee to be heard more than 10 feet away; and how unworkable the entry forms are for the emcee to use in announcing the parade. Ideas included not having judging, and providing signs for the winning entries to announce them, rather than relying on the emcee to sort through, read and announce the parade.

Plans were discussed for the holiday lighting and celebration. Tracy will fill out the paperwork and send it to Cal Trans to once again seek approval to put lights on the bridge; and contact the CCC's about helping with the decorating on the weekends of November 11 and 18.

Amanda will approach the city manager about paying for the lift, estimated to be about \$2,000, to be used in the decorating those two weekends.

Susan will reach out to the fire department about the parade; to HRC about donating a tree, and to John Coleman about being Santa.

Jim Brickley will work with the traffic control people about being ready when the bridge lighting is done.

Sarah will be contacted about managing the refreshments and other aspects of the tree lighting event, which will be Sat., Dec. 2.

Nick will write up a blurb for the Kiwanis seeking a grant to purchase decorations for the tree that goes on the median. He will reach out for donations for additional expenses and check with his staff to see if someone will be available, as last year, to do the tech support for the home decorating contest which entails mapping and voting online.

The board discussed the difficulty of contacting the owners of the post office building to request their permission to put a mural on the side. Tracy said she would write a letter that could be mailed, since more informal initial contacts had failed, seeking their signatures.

Tracy said it was time to seek nominations for the board, but so many years had gone by with no one stepping up, there was no record of who was up for election. She would put the notice in the chamber newsletter for October, announcing nominations that would run in the November newsletter, with voting that month and new board members/officers declared in December at the annual meeting, which takes place at the tree lighting.

The visitors spoke about ways they felt people could get involved in the chamber and the community, the need for younger and inter-generational activities, and the wish of people wanting to go into business for themselves, to get help on how to complete a business plan.

Susan announced the time flags would go up and come down Monday for Labor Day, 6:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy O'Connell, Secretary