

# Minutes of Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce Board

## January 5, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 12:08 p.m. by Nick Angeloff, president. Also present: Jim Brickley, vice-president; Tracy O'Connell, secretary; Melissa Marks and Susan Pryor.

Decorations are to be removed in Rio Dell the weekend of Jan. 13 and 14, with work starting at 9 a.m. each day, meeting at Nick's office, 440 Wildwood. The Nally traffic control team is set for Sunday of that weekend to do the bridge. Tracy will contact the CCC's and the youth group at the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Fortuna, the Pathfinders, about their availability either/both days.

Nick developed a series of notes and recommendations to smooth the annual decorating function:

- Bridge lights - the fire department did them this year and we only had one connection that was not done correctly.
- Ornament across street is now tagged with sequence.
- Hanging of pole lights was quick.
- Tree lights at Memorial Park - we had just enough lights.

### **Things that went wrong:**

- It took way too long, this can be done with two manlifts in one weekend if highly organized with a committed group.
- Businesses that committed to hanging their own lights did not do so.
- Proper Wellness committed to turning lights on but did so only three times between weekend before Thanksgiving and Xmas. Nick did the rest.

### **Solutions:**

- Get everyone committed for the weekend before Thanksgiving now and send reminders quarterly then weekly starting in October.
- Draft detailed instructions for each task and assign team members.
- Ensure outdoor electrical outlets are in place, we invest in this. Find an electrician that will volunteer time.
- For those businesses that will allow it, install and leave lights up year-round. This can be accomplished by ladder and well ahead of time.

### **Tasks include:**

Town Xmas tree      Ornament across street      Memorial Park trees      City Hall lawn  
Business lights on buildings      Ornaments in medians      Pole ornaments      Lights on gateway  
Fire department lights

Nick recommended reserving two lifts, two months in advance, to ensure the equipment was on hand when needed. Another topic was the possibility of leaving the lights on the trees in Memorial Park some years, to reduce work, but also checking that they were not growing into

the trees. Discussion included prices for lifts from various firms, which varied widely, and that delivery was sometimes more than the rental price.

During the meeting, United Rentals emailed a price of \$900 which would include delivery and provide a second lift for the weekend, although the total would be \$300 over the \$2500 amount budgeted for the year. Susan moved to go with a second lift, Nick seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion included the need for more wooden cutouts for future years' decorations.

Susan said there should be candy canes in future years for the tree lighting, that Santa could give out. Nick said he would need to purchase the size zip ties needed for the bridge in bulk ahead of next year's need. He has purchased about \$500 in lights and materials needed to complete the decorations this year.

Aside from that, there were no additional thoughts about the tree lighting or decorating contest.

Melissa had heard from Kyle Knopp that the city might be redoing the landscaping in the medians which could affect the flag poles and the decorative cutouts.

The lease with the resource center was reviewed. Nick said it had another year to run before it could be renegotiated to accommodate the higher-than-expected utility bills that were being incurred. Nick shared a spreadsheet that showed the over-age each month which the utility expense was creating and noted that Martha Sheehan at Providence, who oversees the resource centers, has cut a check for \$2850 to offset those costs this past year. Tracy moved, Nick seconded, and the motion passed, to continue for the balance of the lease in this fashion with the resource center offsetting the utility overage in an end-of-year check.

Melissa reported that she has completed the move to Quicken from Quickbooks.

Susan said the work being done in the Scotia Museum is completed and the Community Services District is waiting to have its plans approved to go out for bids on the Winema Theater. The bathrooms at the park are being redone to be ADA compliant.

The fire department wants to use the same, western theme next year for Wildwood Days.

Tracy moved and Nick seconded to adjourn at 1:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy O'Connell, Secretary