

# Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce

## November 1, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 by Jim Brickley, vice president. Also present: Nick Angeloff, president; members Gabe Smith, Susan Pryor and Tracy O'Connell; Amanda Carter, liaison from the city council; Mavis Amen; and Rio Dell mayor Deb Garnes.

The financial report was approved, with Gabe moving and Susan seconding acceptance.

Plans are in place for putting up flags on Veterans Day. Susan said the first three Scotia flag holders are finished, and she will put the flags up there. Jim confirmed he will handle the veterans display on the City Hall lawn.

The decorating plan for the weekend of Nov. 16-17 was reviewed. Jim said he would test the lights at Memorial Park in advance of that weekend to make sure they still work, having been up for a year. A gadget called Lightkeeper Pro which can be bought at hardware stores was recommended.

Amanda confirmed the City of Rio Dell would pay up to \$2,500 for purchases made to expand the lighting project upon receipt of receipts.

Mavis said things were in place for the home and business decorating contest, she would get the information posted mid-November. Tracy said after getting word it was up, she would send out the publicity, on the web, Facebook, in the traditional media, and via posters.

Mavis had requested \$30 to advertise the event online. Gabe moved and Jim seconded the request, and the motion passed.

Nick confirmed his assistant can put the homes and businesses participating in the competition, on a map to be used by those wishing to vote on the entrants.

Susan said she would check with the Scotia CSD about putting the link to sign up for the contest on water and sewer utility bills that go out.

The tree lighting event was reviewed. The tree from HRC is to be delivered to the lot where Adam Dias formerly had his burl shop, at Wildwood and Columbus, November 14 or 15.

It was decided music was not needed at the tree lighting because people mostly want to visit rather than listen to music. Amanda said she would get this event and others we had discussed on the Instagram account and on the city sign.

The flood commemorative event was reviewed. A budget of \$1,000 was moved by Nick, seconded by Gabe, and approved to cover catering and possibly a small stipend to the presenters.

Mavis said she would meet with the committee to reinvigorate the chamber to re-do and freshen up the new membership letter her committee had put together in the past year and get it to Melissa in time for the membership drive to start in December.

The question came up of how to respond to requests for donations from various school, church, community and other groups. Mavis suggested an ad-hoc committee put together parameters for donations. Amanda proposed Sarah and Gabe also serve on the committee, reflecting the business and non-profit sides of the community.

Amanda spoke to Susan about taking the idea to the Scotia CSD to help fund Critters without Litters doing spay-neuter and other animal care clinics in Scotia, as it has done in Rio Dell.

Members discussed moving the Visitor's Center (specifically the brochure rack) to a different location than the Resource Center, and relocating the signs to reflect that location. Jim had not gotten an answer from the Scotia Lodge about the willingness there to take that on. Discussion led to it being placed at Root 101 which is open 7 days/week and has food and coffee to attract travelers. Gabe made the motion which was seconded by Tracy and passed.

The need to finish the kiosk and Scotia flag projects and move the visitor center signs was discussed. Nick said he would not be free to do it until late December. Tracy asked him to get an estimate of the materials needed in advance of the December board meeting to get the expenses approved and the items purchased.

Amanda gave an informational report about the art project at the river trail in Rio Dell, where artists were submitting examples of their work to have one selected to do the installation that would be at the gateway to the trail.

She said 13 submissions had been received and the public was invited to come to city hall and vote for the winner in one of two times, either Saturday, Nov. 9 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., or Tues., Nov. 12 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Mayor Deb Garnes spoke of interest in having a Halloween celebration next year on a larger scale, such as the chamber has at Christmas. Mavis said it would be easy to have a decorating contest then, too, for homes and businesses. Donations could be sought from businesses as prizes. A Day of the Dead event such as the Resource Center has, would be another opportunity. Nick said if it were named after his deceased colleague, Mirasol Cortes Rincon, people at Cal Poly Humboldt would get on board.

A committee consisting of Mavis, Sarah and Amanda was formed to address this. Tracy posted on Facebook that this was being considered and people wanting to get involved might want to buy Halloween decorations that are now marked down.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy O'Connell, secretary