

Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce

Board Minutes Feb. 7, 2025

Note: no meeting was held in January

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m. Present: Nick Angeloff, president; Jim Brickley, vice president; Susan Pryor; Gabriel Smith; Tracy O'Connell, secretary; and chamber members Jessica Davis and Al Houghton as well as Brytann Busick, community strategies manager from the Redwood Coast Energy Authority.

She was invited to present about the work of the RCEA, which she described as initially formed in 2003 as a joint powers authority to encourage energy efficiency practices which more recently became a community choice aggregator, allowing purchase of electrical power including wind, solar, hydropower and biomass for customers that would automatically be cheaper than getting it from PG&E.

The organization offers rebates to replace appliances, resiliency projects like the airport microgrid, and advice for those who call with questions about how their program works and ways to lower their bill. A goal is for Humboldt County to use 100% renewable energy by 2030.

The board, in other business, approved the financial report for January and February, with Nick moving and Susan seconding approval. Nick summarized the agreement that had been made during the previous month extending the lease for the Rio Dell Community Resource Center for four years, adjusting utility costs paid to be able to cover real and envisioned cost hikes. That agreement had been approved via email with Tracy moving, Susan seconding, and Nick and Sharon voting aye.

Holiday decorations and activities were reviewed. Al suggested the tree in the median have colored lights. Nick said that it was OK if they were of the large size like the white ones are now, as those are easier to deal with than smaller-sized bulbs. The need for new cutouts for the median was discussed. Jim said he would draw them if others paint them, and that Root 101 might have room for this work to be done. He said it would take \$1,000 to buy sheets of cardboard. The need to stand larger cut-outs up in a way that they will not fall over in the wind – perhaps with the use of guy wires - and to have a place to store them, were discussed.

Mavis Amen provided an emailed report of the holiday decorating competition, recommended ways to keep the cheating (multiple submissions per person) from happening as well as to increase the time to sign up. She requested payment of \$28.20 for postage and other expenses

which had previously been approved by the board. Being unable to meet with the winners, she mailed the checks to them.

Mavis also reported on the annual chamber membership drive, noting that she emailed almost 200 people and suggested alternate outreach to additional groups. She needs to meet with Billy Joe about how to put the logos of the major donors on the web site as called for in the membership level letter and wants to have an Instagram page separate from the one the chamber manages for the city.

Tracy will ask for information on how the Instagram page will be different and if that is OK with Amanda/the city, as well as to connect her to Billy Joe.

A March mixer was discussed. This came from the Scotia Lodge management's interest in hosting events 6-8 p.m. in their lobby to serve the local community, and St. Patrick's Day was envisioned as an occasion. The Lodge will host the bar; Mavis offered to provide refreshments from her catering company and is to meet with Jim to plan that. Al offered to perform Irish songs. Jim wants to have additional, live music to support the singing and also themed decorations. Gabe moved to approve \$200 for decorations and Nick seconded; Nick moved \$500 for the band and Gabe seconded. Both motions passed. \$5 per head will be charged at the door.

Susan reported that the fire department will hold a surf and turf dinner March 29, and will hold its annual awards and badge pinning event on Feb. 22. She said the fire department wants to stay with the western theme for Wildwood Days. The board discussed what might go with that for the parade theme. Al suggested Native Americans, he knew some native dancers who could be on the chamber float; Jim mentioned it could work for the horse riders to decorate their mounts as well.

Al is to talk to Lex the Barber about a ribbon-cutting for his new business and get back to the board with when that is.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy O'Connell, secretary

