

Rio Dell-Scotia Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting

September 8, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. Present were Jim Brickley, vice president; Tracy O'Connell, secretary; Susan Pryor, board member; Amanda Carter, city council liaison; Melissa Marks, bookkeeper; chamber members Mavis Amen and husband, Colt; Al Houghton; Aundrea Vaughn; Tim Marks and Jessica Davis and community members Monica Warden, Lisa Wilson, Alex Calderon, Jose Beltran and Patrick Reeves.

Those present discussed the need for a new chamber computer (as the existing one will not accept Windows 11 and has other issues that affect its longevity), citing upcoming sales and other advantages to purchase sooner rather than later. Melissa will ask Billy Joe Long, computer consultant, for his recommendation of what to purchase and bring that to the board.

Mavis said the Halloween decorating contest was open for signups and on schedule with judging in October; she did not see any issues concerning it or the annual Christmas decorating contest that would start the following month.

Several items concerning the holiday decorating schedule and tree lighting ceremony were moved to the following month due to people with key roles not being present. It was decided to keep the annual meeting at the tree lighting because of the large turnout.

Jose explained a grant he wants to pursue from the Christopher Reeve Foundation that would give the community four, all-terrain wheelchairs to be used by visitors as well as locals who are wheelchair users to access the beach and trails. He had a plan for their storage and use and needed a fiscal sponsor, which he hoped the chamber would agree to be.

Tracy described the need for a river cleanup as is usually done in the fall before the rains come. Amanda texted Jono Freeman who has led many in the past to see if he is available and can offer any help or advice. Dana Webb from Kiwanis and others have lost contact with him.

The board approved hiring Mavis to manage web maintenance with Sarah Reback moving the action in absentia, Susan seconding, and Jim and Tracy voting aye.

The upcoming Trunk or Treat was announced and the opportunity to participate as an individual, business, or chamber. Aundra said she wanted to work with businesses in town to see if they would offer in-store trick or treating in advance of this event. Mavis said to get her a list of participating businesses, and they will be put on social media to help drive traffic.

Monica discussed an upcoming event and the need to obtain the loan of about 30 chairs, among other things she was crowd-sourcing.

Those present agreed to support the idea that Wally Coppini's proposed event would take place the weekend before Father's Day next June; Mavis said he had a team of supporters lined up and thousands of dollars in donations so didn't need more from the chamber than that.

Jim discussed a possible Cinco de Mayo event for the coming year, and that Kristen, the manager at the Scotia Lodge, wanted to do a New Year's Eve party.

Lisa talked about the disruption caused by the Native dancers at this year's Wildwood Days parade because of where they parked and how they went about using facilities meant for others, to get ready. She urged greater communication so all groups could be served better in the future. Susan and Tracy agreed, saying they had no knowledge that any of this was happening, Susan had opened the school for them to change in. Tracy apologized on behalf of the board.

Jessica said she was working on a plan to change the materials in the kiosks at the Triangle Park and library and wanted to change the way the doors lock for easier access which she could do at small cost with her husband's help.

Melissa and Amanda said they are working with Kyle to move ahead on plans to install the city hall kiosk and complete the flag pole installations in Rio Dell. Tracy said the California Conservation Corps wasn't going to be available to help with this project as had been hoped.

Lex talked about how he is starting a farmer's market in the parking lot adjacent to his business, Neighborhoods Barber Shop, on Thursdays from 3 to 6 p.m. and encourages growers of food stuffs and makers of crafts to participate; he has live music lined up and, on other nights, food trucks. He agreed to speak about some of his ideas for stimulating downtown business at the October meeting. Melissa spoke to the need to reach out to the businesses in the industrial park in marketing and communication efforts.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Because there was not a quorum, some business items were deferred to an email vote following the meeting. In that exchange, board President Nick Angeloff, Sarah Reback and Sharon Holt joined the board members present at the meeting to approve the financial report, the use of the chamber as a fiscal agent for Jose to request adaptive equipment for use by the community from the Christopher Reeve Foundation, and the expenditure of \$598 for an ad in the annual publication, *101 Things to Do in Humboldt*, in which this ad anchors a page of information about Rio Dell and Scotia. A fourth item sought input regarding application for a Rotary grant, which met with approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy O'Connell, secretary