

**Bay Area Chamber of Commerce  
Board Minutes  
December 7, 2005  
7:00am – Red Lion Hotel**

Board members present: Dick Leshley, Yellow Cab Taxi; Johanna Dillard, Coastal Paper & Supply; Barbara Gunnell, Community Financial Services; Chris Christoffer, Sterling Bank; Bonnie Barron, Bay Area Hospital; Jenny Bream, Brian Bream Screw Machines; Lucinda DiNovo, The Mill Casino-Hotel; Marty Giles, Wavecrest Discoveries; Joanie Johnson, Sincerely Yours Antique Mall; Mark Mattecheck, North Bend Lanes; Renee Middleton, US Bank; Sam Roth, Century 21 Best Realty; Timm Slater, Forestry Consultant; Brandy Thompson, Cardinal Employment Services; Ron Opitz, SCDC Community-at-large director; Shirley Liberante, Chamber Executive Director; Connie Davis, Chamber Office Manager.

Guests: Beka Young, MHS Student Representative; Chris Coles, CB Downtown Association.

President Dick Leshley called the meeting to order and everyone introduced themselves and their businesses.

The minutes of the November 2, 2005 meeting were unanimously approved as mailed.

**MHS Student Report**

Beka Young reported that the choir has been accepted to sing at Carnegie Hall in the Spring; there is a choir and band concert coming up; the school is participating in the Oregon Green School recycling program; she is the editor of the school newspaper and they are working on their 3<sup>rd</sup> issue; work has begun on the school yearbook; the school participated in a Thanksgiving food basket program and is planning to do it again for Christmas; they are holding a canned food drive to assist needy families at the holiday season.

**President's Report**

Dick stated that it has been a very good year. He thanked Board members for their support and for making his presidential year an easy one.

**Executive Director's Report**

Shirley reminded everyone about the upcoming Economic Outlook Forum on Friday at 6:45am at The Mill Salmon Room. She said there are 22 paid sponsors and 8 more that give us media advertising as a trade.

She said that the Festival of Trees auction will be Thursday night at The Mill Salmon Room with bidding starting at 7:00pm. The Bay Area Rotary Club co-sponsors the event with the Chamber and proceeds will go to various local charities.

Shirley stated that Profile ads have all been sold and are at a grand total of \$62,000 which is the largest number ever sold to date. She said that profits won't change much since we will be printing more copies this year.

Shirley said that the January banquet theme will be "Celebrate Good Times" and that The Mill has purchased a disco ball that will be used for the event. The band has been chosen and will play after the banquet. She asked that everyone be thinking about worthy candidates for Business of the Year and Citizen of the Year and e-mail or fax your nominations to her. She also asked everyone to nominate a deserving business for the "Positivity" award.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Chris Christoffer said that there will not be a treasurer's report today.

**Coos Bay Downtown Association** - Chris Coles said that they just finished a very successful year; they completed a membership drive, regained several old members and acquired some new ones. She said that Santa visited with the children at the Fire Department and it was such a success that they are hoping to hold the event there in the future. She said that applications for the Blackberry Arts Festival are starting to come in already and the association will be holding a meeting in January to tighten up some of the rules and avoid some of the confusion from last year.

**Tourism** – Marty Giles reported that the committee did good work for the year. She said that she is forming a committee to work at assisting with Tall Ship activities when the ships are in port. Please call her if you are interested in being involved. She said that Rob Spooner with Oregon Coast Magazine said they are planning to expand the circulation of their Mile-by-Mile guides to Northern California and other areas. Marty said that the next meeting will be on the 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am at the Red Lion.

**Promotions** – Shirley Liberante said that Cheryl Crockett and Barb Dunham from the Coos Bay and North Bend Information Centers re-wrote an entire section on the Bay Area for the Oregon Coast Magazine's Mile-by-Mile guide and that it is one of the most important pieces advertising our area because of the number of copies that are distributed. She is going to check and see if the Promotions Bureau will be paying for the ad.

**Economic Development** – Shirley said that they had another excellent meeting and that Adam Zimmerman spoke about Shorebank Enterprise Pacific. She said that there will be no meeting in December.

**IBO** – Shirley reported that Hank Hickox from Bandon Dunes will be presenting today's program. He will be telling everyone about the new golf courses and also about their big New Year's Eve party. She said that Oregon Coast Spine Institute will be telling about their huge expansion at next week's IBO and there will be no IBO again until after the New Year.

**Government Affairs** – Dick reported that Nikki Whitty will be telling everyone what's happening in Coos County at the next meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of December. Shirley said that this is a revitalized committee and the last time they met most of our representatives were there.

**Forestry/Fisheries** – Timm Slater said that the next meeting will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month at the Red Lion. He said that Douglas Timber Operators coordinates these meetings and always have a good natural resources speaker.

**Membership/4 Star Awards** – Johanna Dillard said that several awards have been given out recently and she asked that everyone continue sending in their nominations.

**Banquet** – Barbara Gunnell reported that at the last meeting they came up with a theme, chose the venue and menu and the band has been chosen.

**Leadership Coos** – Connie Davis reported that this month will feature Government. The group will be meeting at Black Market Gourmet and will be hearing from Rick Wetherell and Jan Willis from North Bend, Joe Benetti and Scott McClure from Coos Bay, Karmen Fore and Ron Kreskey from Congressman DeFazio's office, Senator Joanne Verger, Representative Arnie Roblan, Judge Richard Barron, and Commissioner Nikki Whitty. Black Market Gourmet will be catering lunch and the

afternoon will be spent at Shutter Creek Correctional Institution with a tour of the facility and a panel discussion.

**SCDC** – Ron Opitz said he is excited about the expansion he's seeing in the entire region. He said that he is seeing progress with the cities, counties and private entities all working together for the good of the community and they all have a very important part to play.

He said that he has sent out 3 new industrial project requests within the last 30-40 days and that our area continues to compete; the Asian project is continuing to move forward with Coos Bay and Melbourne, Australia being considered for their business location. He said that this would be a ½ billion dollar industry.

Ron stated that the Jordan Cove project continues to move ahead and this would have an economic impact on the entire region of the state; this project has been in the planning stages for over a year and he is beginning to see the plans coming to fruition.

Ron reported that the ACS expansion includes 85 jobs, Hardin Optical in Bandon will offer 50 jobs, Ross Piping in Coquille has 20 employees and is bringing in a second business that will require 10 more employees. The Southport Lumber expansion provided 10 additional jobs.

Another encouraging sign is that unemployment is the lowest in 1 ½ decades and he has been seeing dynamic changes – people moving into the area, lots of changes going on at the Boys & Girls Club, the coal bed testing continues. Ron commended The Mill for the excellent banquet that they catered for the Boys & Girls Club.

**North Bend Downtown Association** – Johanna Dillard reported that the Community Tree lighting drew about 500 people to the community building where Santa arrived on a fire truck, cider and punch were served, a table was set up so people could sign cards that will be sent to the troops in Iraq. She said that a boys bike and a girls bike were given away to 2 very excited recipients.

Johanna said that Police Chief Sciabelli has created a Crime Prevention Program and suggested that Shirley call him about presenting it at an upcoming IBO. She said that the landmark presentation commission will be actually looking at the design criteria for downtown buildings. She said that there will be a public meeting to be announced later.

Johanna reported that Jack Richards is the new president and Kate Fox is the new secretary of the Downtown Association and they are working on plans for a blue grass festival for 2007.

**Announcements** – Barbara Gunnell announced that the County is looking for a new person to serve on their planning commission.

**Adjourn** – Having no further business, President Leshley adjourned the meeting.