

**Bay Area Chamber of Commerce  
Board Minutes  
February 1, 2006  
7:00am – Red Lion Hotel**

Board Members present: Bonnie Barron, Bay Area Hospital; Jenny Bream, Brian Bream Screw Machines; Chris Christoffer, Sterling Savings Bank; Johanna Dillard, Coastal Paper & Supply; Lucinda DiNovo, The Mill Casino-Hotel; Barbara Gunnell, Community Financial Services; Joanie Johnson, Sincerely Yours! Antique Mall; Dick Leshley, Yellow Cab Taxi; Joy McCarthy, CCAT; Renee Middleton, US Bank; Scott Nay, Baycrest Village; Tom Scheideman, Weyerhaeuser; Brandy Thompson, Cardinal Services; Shirley Liberante, Chamber; Connie Davis, Chamber; Community-at-Large Directors: Martin Gallery, Oregon International Port of Coos Bay; Ex-Officio: Jan Willis, City of North Bend; Scott McClure, City of Coos Bay.

Guests: Tatiana Westerhout, SCDC; Theresa Haga, CCD Business Development Corp; Jon Richards, Southwestern Business Development Center; Christine Coles, Coos Bay Downtown Association.

President Chris Christoffer called the meeting to order and everyone present introduced themselves and their businesses.

The minutes of the January 4, 2006 meeting were unanimously approved as mailed.

**President's Report**

Chris called everyone's attention to the list of new members that have joined the Chamber since November. He encouraged everyone to call these people and welcome them to the Chamber. Shirley mentioned that by making contact with these people, many of whom are new to the area, it can be good for your business as well and personal contact really means a lot.

Chris recognized two guests, who haven't been to a Board meeting before, and asked them to introduce themselves and tell a little bit about their businesses. They are - Theresa Haga with CCD Business Development Corporation and Tatiana Westerhout, South Coast Development Council.

Chris reported that things are moving forward with the proposed 2006 projects. He said that a meeting of the Community Pride Committee will be held soon and asked that anyone interested in being a part of this committee to call him or Shirley. Chris said that this project goal will be to recognize people for sprucing up both business and residential properties. He said that the group will be coordinating with the City of North Bend in this effort. Chris requested that everyone compliment and encourage those people who are working at sprucing up their property.

**Executive Director's Report**

Shirley reported that the Banquet was a total success and thanked Lucinda DiNovo and her staff for all the work that they did on the project. She said that June Poole was extremely helpful the evening of the banquet. Chris said that the new arrangement (putting the stage in the center, instead of the end of the room) worked very well, the food was wonderful and he felt that 2 serving lines for the food worked well. Jenny Bream suggested that perhaps we could have 2 servers in each bar area next year since the lines were quite long and it was taking a lot of time to serve people.

Shirley reported that at the last Executive meeting they discussed a request from Eileen Ophus of CCD to change her status from Board Member to at-large Director. Shirley said that this was accepted and will leave an opening on the Board. She asked that anyone with a recommendation for filling the position to call her.

**Treasurer's Report**

Barbara Gunnell reported that we are in transition going from the old system to Quickbooks. She said that 5 years ago the Chamber had assets of \$92,960 and as of December 2005 assets are at \$230,568 thanks to Shirley's management skills.

**Other Officers & Committee Reports**

**Ambassadors** – Joy McCarthy reported that they had a board meeting yesterday and the next general meeting will be Friday at Benetti's. She said everyone is invited to attend, and to please call her and let her know so she can give Joe a head-count for lunch. Joy said that the group will be officiating at an Open House for ACS at their new facility, 465 Elrod in Coos Bay. ACS dignitaries will be attending the event.

Joy said that they are working on bidding to hold the Annual Ambassadors Convention in the Bay Area in 2008 or 2009. She said that Jill Hansen is putting together a skit, complete with costumes, that will be presented at the convention in Roseburg the third weekend in September. She said that the local group will be hosting the hospitality room on Friday night and the menu will include foods representative of our area. She said that 225 – 250 people attend these four day conventions.

Joy said that she recently received a call from an Ambassador in Gresham who requested a copy of their policy and procedures manual. She said she was very impressed with the way that our local group interacts with our Chamber.

**Tourism** – Jenny Bream reported that Jan Willis will be speaking about the North Bend Waterfront at the next – February 16<sup>th</sup> - Tourism meeting.

**Economic Development** – Tom Scheideman reported that the last meeting featured John Sweet with Sause Bros. Ocean Towing. The next meeting will be held on February 27<sup>th</sup>. The speaker has not been chosen yet, but he will notify Shirley with that information so she can e-mail it to everyone.

Tom reported that he, Jan Willis and Timm Slater are members of the North Bend Community Scholarship Fund and 100 scholarships are given out each year. He said that their annual meeting will be February 9<sup>th</sup>.

**IBO** – Shirley stated that Theresa Haga and Kathy Strickler, with CCD, volunteered to help with the IBO Lunch Forums. She said that they will be taking an active part shortly. Shirley said that today's IBO speaker will be Pam Dennis with South Coast Hospice. She said that Carol Shaw and Debbie Roth were Volunteer of the Year award winners, at the recent Banquet, in recognition for all their work with IBO.

**Promotions** – Shirley reported that the Chamber is doing a trade with Unique Screen Media and they have created commercials that will be shown before all movies in the new theater at Pony Village.

Jan Willis reported that the Promotions Bureau is planning to purchase a reader board for North Bend with plans to install it at the North end of the City. Shirley said that plans are for Coos Bay's reader board to be at the South end of town. Scott McClure said that they are still trying to decide the best location due to the traffic, curve in the road, etc.

**Government Affairs** – Dick Leshley stated that meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30am at the Red Lion. He said that Ken Messerle was the speaker for January. Tips from Ken included to look at how important a project is and work with government officials to get things done; get the Chamber behind the project; stay in contact with legislators – send them an e-mail, stop by to say hi when you're in Salem; start working on your projects and make legislators aware now and don't wait until they are in session.

**Membership Development** – Johanna Dillard said that she is really excited to be a part of the group that accompanies the Ambassadors to give out the 4-Star Customer Service Awards. She said that she phones new members and welcomes them. She said that people are always calling her and asking about joining the Chamber, and she refers them to the Chamber staff for more information.

**Leadership Coos** – Connie Davis reported that this the group will be having pictures taken for the yearbook. February's topic is Emergency Services and Communications and speakers will be Bruce Latta, Bay Cities Ambulance; representatives from the Coast Guard Air Station and Lifeboat Station; Tours are planned with Greg Stevens, The World newspaper and Stan Gibson, Coos Bay Fire Department. Afternoon speakers will be Andy Jackson, Coos County Sheriff; Steve Scibelli, North Bend Police Chief and Eura Washburn, Coos Bay Police Chief. Coos Bay Police will be bringing a K-9 Patrol dog and SCINT will be bringing a K-9 Drug dog for demonstrations.

**Transportation** – Martin Callery said that the February Transportation meeting has been cancelled. They are hoping to have Gary LeTellier speak at the March meeting on the airport terminal.

Martin reported that ODOT will be speaking on the Isthmus Slough Bridge project in April. He said that the project has "made the list" for funding of the engineering design. He said that this will be a \$50-70 million dollar project and at this point there is not enough funding to complete the project.

**4-Star Awards** – A discussion was held regarding changing the 4-Star Awards to 5-Star Awards (as depicted by 5-Star hotel accommodations). Following the discussion, Chris asked for a show of hands to indicate who was for or against this idea. The majority was against changing the name of the award. Chris said that this idea may be revisited some time in the future.

**City of Coos Bay** – Scott McClure reported that they are working on the waterfront project in Empire. A concept drawing indicates that there would be a wayside on the upper level (in the location of the old Bay Club), and a visitor center on the lower level closer to the water. He said that other buildings would be built so that the area looks like a small fishing village.

Scott stated that the City has purchased the old Egyptian Theater but the deal has not closed yet. He said that there will need to be some upgrades to the building and they will need to find a group to run it.

Other City projects are the Choshi Bridge replacement; new development/changes to upsize the waste water facility; improvements to all the city parks (landscaping, play equipment, etc.); downtown improvements such as infrastructure and building facades; the possibility of using some of the Urban Renewal dollars for marketing.

**City of North Bend** – Jan Willis reported that the City is the recipient of \$25,000 from the Coquille Tribe for pool improvements. She said that they have also received a grant from Oregon Parks & Recreation that will be used for College Park restrooms, sewer system and pump station.

Jan said that CEDCO is coming right along with the development of their RV park and they plan to develop the rest of their 55 acre property.

Jan reported that residential development is very busy, with most of the homes being built in the \$400-500,000 dollar range. She said that many discussions have been held regarding developing affordable housing for first-time buyers.

Jan said that meetings have been held in regard to creating a private “high school of the arts” in downtown North Bend. She said that there are mixed emotions about this because schools receive approximately \$5,000 per student and that would be taking money away from the existing high school. She said that these ideas are still in the beginning stages and that they plan to talk more to property owners within the city to see how they feel about the project.

**Charleston** – Martin Callery reported that the Port is continuing with their master plan for the marina and the shipyard. He said that a public meeting will be held on February 15, location will be announced later. He said that they are looking for community input.

Martin announced that next Saturday is the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Crab Feed. It will be held from 11-4 in the old Charleston school.

**Port** - Martin Callery reported that the Port continues to negotiate with Weyerhaeuser and Jordan Cove Energy putting together a package on the North Spit property. He said that they are still in the negotiating phase of financing. Plans are to lease part of the property to the LNG project.

Martin said they are still working on the Connect Oregon transportation project that is a State-wide program; phase 1 of the railroad bridge was to replace steel, replace piers and multi coat the bridge; phase 2 will rehabilitate the barge slip at Southport Forest Products; phase 3 will involve the Central Oregon & Pacific railroad and rehabilitation of the line between here and Roseburg. The Oregon Transportation Division, in Salem, will make a final decision by July.

**Coos Bay Downtown Association** – Chris Coles reported that plans for the 2006 market and festivals are underway. The Farmers Market will begin on May 24<sup>th</sup> this year and the Blackberry Arts Festival will be the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend in August. She said that they are hoping to put a food stamp machine at the market this year and to have more chef demonstrations. Chris said that between 2000-2500 people attend the market and it is becoming a destination more than a tourist attraction.

**North Bend Downtown Association** – Johanna Dillard stated that they recently had an election of officers and that she served her last meeting as president of the group. She reported that Shorebank has money for local improvements and that Sterling and Umpqua currently have low interest loans possible to finance merchants facades. She said that they are waiting for ODOT to make a decision on getting the traffic speed reduced going through town.

Johanna said that they had discussed a banner to hang over the highway, but the proposed reader board would do a lot more than the banner.

She reported that she is on the Board for the Bay Area Rescue Mission and their new facility should be finished, and funding completed, sometime this month. She said that there will be a men’s dorm and a women/children’s dorm and the building has been remodeled with the potential for adding on in the future. She said that they will be having an open house soon and invited all to attend.

**Adjournment** – Having no further business, President Christoffer adjourned the meeting.