

**Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors
June 1, 2005
Red Lion Hotel – 7:00am**

Members present: Dick Leshley, President; Jenny Bream, Vice President; Johanna Dillard, Vice President; Barb Gunnell, Secretary; Chris Christoffer, Treasurer; Bonnie Barron, Bay Area Hospital; Mark Mattecheck, North Bend Lanes/Back Alley Pub & Grill; Ken Croes, KCBY-TV; Joy McCarthy, South Coast Business Employment Corp; Renee Middleton, US Bank; Sam Roth, Century 21 Best Realty; Tom Scheideman, Weyerhaeuser Paper Co; Brandy Thompson, Cardinal Employment Services; Shirley Liberante, Executive Director; Connie Davis, Office Manager.

Guests: Daniel Sisneros, Marshfield High School Student Representative; Ron Opitz, South Coast Development Corp; Rob Schab, Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board; Jan Willis, City of North Bend.

President Dick Leshley called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the minutes of the May 4, 2005 meeting as mailed.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Marshfield High – School representative Daniel Sisneros reported that this is finals week; he was one of the 8 people chosen to speak to students at Sunset Middle School; the new ASB has been busy planning for next year. Dan said that this will be his last meeting as MHS representative but he hopes to be able to visit at a future Board meeting next year.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dick commented that this year is half over and he feels that it has been a very positive year. He said that there are a lot of things on the horizon for the future. He stated that he is pleased that Sam Roth, Mark Mattecheck and Ken Croes have joined the Board and looks forward to working with them. He mentioned that Bandon Dunes' new golf course opens today.

Dick reported that a discussion was held at the Government Affairs Committee regarding the fact that the airport funding bill has hit a snag and that we all need to pull together as a community to assure that this very important issue passes. He said that there are people to contact and that it would be a good idea to send out an e-mail to all Chamber members asking them to contact local legislators.

A discussion followed regarding the status of Senate Bill - Ken Messerle met with Joanne Verger and she has agreed to assist on passing the bill, and it is felt that there is probably a 50/50 chance that the bill will pass. The discussion continued and focused on the fact that everyone should write a letter or e-mail the legislators expressing their concern and stressing the importance to our community that this bill should pass. Rick Howell stated that he is planning a trip to talk to Wayne Kreiger trying to encourage him to get the airport bill passed. Shirley Liberante suggested that a motion be made for the Chamber to publicly support this bill, encourage all Chamber members to write or e-mail and to get out a press release immediately publicly expressing Chamber support. President Leshley called for a motion – it was moved by Ken Croes, seconded by Jenny Bream and unanimously approved by attending Board members, to publicly support SB152. The suggestion was made that when everyone writes their letter that they include comments about how the airport benefits their business, the importance of our airport for economic development and the future of the region and the overall future economy of the area, and for them to encourage the legislators to support the bill. The Bandon Chamber and Bandon Dunes have already taken action and are writing letters. It was determined that our Chamber will take action on this most important issue today.

Shirley distributed a list of House and Senate representatives to contact and asked Board members to send letters, in their own words, about why the airport is important to them. She offered some suggestions such as stressing the importance of the airport to local business, to visitors in our area who would like to relocate here and the importance of growing our schools. She asked that they please get their letters and/or e-mails out today and also asked that they bring the topic to clubs, groups and other organizations to encourage as many people as possible to make their wishes known.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

SCDC Business Video – Shirley said that she brought the newly created marketing piece (DVD) but it wouldn't play on the DVD player. She said that she will bring another copy to the next Board meeting so everyone can see it. Ron Opitz thanked Ken Croes and said that KCBY and KVAL were so wonderful to work with while getting this DVD put together on marketing Oregon's Bay Area. Shirley said that copies are available in the event that anyone would like to have one and that the information will eventually be available on the Chamber website.

Lumberjack Festival – Shirley reported that the festival will be held on June 25th and asked Rob if there were enough timers. The Ambassadors have four people volunteering and several other people have also volunteered. She said that there will be two shows: 11:30 and 1:30. Another meeting will be held next week on June 8th. Rob said that they are working on plans for a log rolling contest and that they will be getting a video on the Outdoor Channel so information on

the festival will be available to many more people. Shirley said that the event is free, is a top-notch event and is still drawing competitors from all over the world.

The Train - Shirley said that on July 23rd 500 people will be arriving on a 15-car vintage passenger train. She said that the trip costs \$810 for space in a Pullman car and that the group will be coming from Portland. Shirley said that Tom Hartman will be here to choose a place for the passengers to disembark and plans are in the works to set up a greeting committee and a band when they arrive. The Ambassadors will be there and will be trained by Marty Giles on "how to be a tour guide" since plans are to have an Ambassador on each of 6 Laidlaw buses that will be taking the visitors on a tour of the area. Three locations have been designated as possible disembarking spots for the group. They are The Mill Casino-Hotel, the Coos Bay Boardwalk and the Railroad yard at the south end of town. The location will be determined by Tom Hartman when he comes to town. Shirley said that packets will be put together for people to read on the train as the trip will take 13 hours each way. It will be a great opportunity to showcase the area and some of the packet inserts will include the Chamber's Community Profile, SCDC information, The World's 101 Things to do on the South Coast and individual business/community information. The group is expected to arrive about 6:30pm. Shirley said that anyone wanting more information about the train could log on to their website www.railsnw.com and check out the information on the "Coastal Express" that shows the cars, prices and more details.

Coos Bay Library Survey – Shirley distributed forms for everyone to fill out and return to her.

Four Star Awards – Shirley encouraged everyone to submit nominations for this award any time they receive exceptional customer service at our local stores. She said that current recipients will be Y-Marina, Harbor Lights Animal Hospital, The Pancake Mill and Northwest Community Credit Union. She said that these awards will be ongoing throughout the year and not just awarded at the banquet.

Cinema 11 Open House - Shirley stated that on June 22 an open house will be held at Cinema 11, at 5:30pm, for Chamber members and their families. She said they will offer a free movie of your choice and free popcorn and pop to those who clip the coupon from the Chamber's June newsletter. Cinema 11 is owned and operated by Coming Attractions Theatres.

OTHER OFFICERS & COMMUNITY REPORTS

Leadership Coos - Connie Davis reported that this year's class just graduated in May and that Monday the steering committee will be meeting for their major planning meeting to set up classes for next year. She said that 24 people have indicated they are interested in attending next year and maximum class size will be 28.

Tourism - Shirley Liberante reported that the next tourism meeting will be the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Red Lion. Rob Spooner from Oregon Coast Magazine will be speaking about the Q Program. Shirley mentioned that committee chair, Marty Giles, is a certified Q trainer. Shirley said that she has copies of the \$40 a Day CD that was recently filmed in our Bay Area. She also said that Outdoor Magazine recently ran an article on our area naming it one of the "top 5 great places to surf" in the U.S.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jenny Bream announced that her son has been coaching a soccer team for boys aged 7 to 10. She said that they have been training two nights per week and recently entered a tournament in Eugene and came back to North Bend with the Championship.

Johanna Dillard announced that the Downtown Association float was named "Best of Show" in the Memorial Day Parade and that the next meeting will feature a workshop by ODOT and will be held on June 23rd from 4:00-8:00pm and will probably be held at the North Bend Library.

Tom Scheideman announced that the last sealed bid auction at the Weyerhaeuser Paper Mill will be held on the 15th & 16th of June and office furniture and miscellaneous equipment will be auctioned off. He said that times of the event will be announced in the paper.

Jan Willis announced that there has been a bid on the 10 acres of property on Virginia Ave. across from Pony Village Mall.

Shirley Liberante announced that Barry Hayes has been named new manager at Pony Village Mall.