

**Bay Area Chamber of Commerce  
Board Meeting Minutes  
June 7, 2006 – 7am – Red Lion**

**Board Members present:** Jenny Bream, Brian Bream Screw Machines; Chris Christoffer, Sterling Savings Bank; Ken Croes, KCBY-TV; Johanna Dillard, Coastal Paper and Supply; Barbara Gunnell, Gunnell Insurance Agency; Joanie Johnson, Sincerely Yours! Antique Mall; Dick Leshley, Yellow Cab; Renee Middleton, US Bank; Barry Hayes, Pony Village Mall; Sam Roth, Century 21 Best Realty; Timm Slater, Forestry consultant; Sherry Yarbrough, Umpqua Bank;

**Others Present:** Shirley Liberante, Executive Director; Connie Davis, Pam Cottrell, Office Manager; Ex Officio: Scott McClure, City of Coos Bay; Theresa Haga, CCD Business Development Corp.

President Chris Christoffer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made. Shirley introduced newly hired office manager Pam Cottrell.

The minutes of the May 3, 2006 Board Meeting were unanimously approved as mailed.

**President's Report** – Chris reports that the Dump will be open on Sundays. Having the dump open on Sunday will help the community with cleaning up their properties. He stated that Bandon Dunes will be hosting the Curtis Cup the last week-end in July. Admission will be free. Chris said there will be a scoping meeting for LNG at The Mill on Monday June 12, 2006. Information Kiosk will be available. LNG will be asking for questions from the public. LNG and FERC will do the research and come back with the answers. Chris presented a Lifetime Chamber Membership Certificate to Connie honoring her 11 years with the Chamber.

**Executive Director's Report** – Shirley announced that new Menasha CEO Tom Jackman was unable to attend, due to a meeting out of the area. There were 52 applications for the office manager position. Shirley said that Pam was the shining star. The reception for Connie's retirement will be June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 3-6pm at the Chamber office. Shirley invited everyone to attend. Shirley announced the 4 Star Award nominees, Julie Woodman, Sause Brothers; for her assistance in obtaining two Oregon Flags for the Lady Washington and Hawaiian Chieftain tall ships. Bennetti's and SOFCU Community Credit Union and Lucinda DiNovo of The Mill Casino were also nominated. Shirley reminded everyone to check their newsletters for new members. She took this opportunity to announce new members Arvin and Debbie Lal, they are the owners of the new Downtown Health and Fitness Center. They will be having their grand opening and ribbon cutting with the Black Market Gourmet. Also the newsletter has a letter asking members to help clean up community for the Curtis Cup. Give recognition to homes and businesses that have made improvements. Contact Chris, Shirley or Pam with address and information of properties. IBO lunch forums are done for the summer. These meetings will start up again in the fall. Economic Development and Government Affairs committees will not meet in summer months.

**Treasurer's Report-** Barb Gunnell reported that the bills are paid and that we have money leftover.

**Other Officers and Committee Reports-**

**Ambassadors** – Barb Gunnell reported that there will be a ribbon cutting for the new Hospice Thrift Store tomorrow. Planning has started on the 2008 convention.

**Tourism-** Jenny Bream reported that at their last meeting Jennifer Groth spoke on Flags and Flowers. Everyone had good ideas for cleaning up the community. Jerry Miller reported that the antique appraisal was a huge success. Great turn out and are looking forward to another show. Jon Richards talked about the Disney Institute training that will be available at the college on September 14th. Topics will be management, leadership, team building, service and business success.

**Economic Development** – Shirley reported that Tom Scheideman will be writing an official letter of resignation, he is being transferred to the Vancouver area. We need a new co- chair to assist Adam with the committee. Barry Hayes volunteered to accept this position.

**IBO Lunch Forums** – Shirley announced that the forums will begin again Sept 6<sup>th</sup>. Dave Bobbitt with Sterling Bank is schedule to speak the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of September.

**CB-NB Promotions** - City Manager Scott McClure said that Coos Bay will be getting an electronic sign courtesy of the Promotion Bureau that will be placed on 101 next to the Visitor Center.

**Government Affairs** - Dick Leshley announced that the committee will meet again in September.

**Forestry and Fisheries** - Timm Slater reported that the Lumberjack Competition will be Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup>. Shirley reported that poles will go up on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The World newspaper will have a big flyer in the Newspaper, featuring the History of Forestry, in Coos County. A lot of participants have signed up for the competition, The city of North Bend has volunteered their EMT's. The Chamber will have the rider on the insurance again this year; The Mill will give away promotional items; all volunteers will have T-shirts; The event is over budget on money collected. The event is free to the public, because of the generous donations of the timber industry and local businesses. Timm announced the next meeting will be on the 16<sup>th</sup>, featured topic: Natural Resources.

**Leadership Coos** - Connie reported that the Steering Committee will meet next week to start planning next year's program. She also announced two new members joining the committee Shirley McAdams and John Lloyd.

#### **Community Reports-**

**City of Coos Bay** – Scott McClure reported that the Bay Ridge Addition has been approved by the council. Bay Ridge Addition is a 200 acre parcel, set for single family homes. Scott also announced that Coos Bay will be WiFi ready, possibly up and running by mid July. A part time position has been approved by the council to work in Code Enforcement, along with a new building official. This should all take place in the next month. Please call Public Works and Development to report buildings in need of attention. Scott has been working with FEMA and Coos Bay will be getting reimbursements for several projects that were recently completed. Coos Bay is looking into purchasing the land on Old Wireless Lane and converting it to wetlands. The dike is failing and this area floods. Scott also shared that a gentleman from San Jose, California is buying up properties in the area. He has offers on multiple properties in the area and is very impressed with the area and the potential growth to come.

A discussion was held on resources available for new business. Ideas were shared on how to get all the great resources we have established and available to the people who need the assistance. The Chamber has that information at the center.

Charleston/ Ocean Beach signs are in place. Charleston's business After Hours was a great success. There was a good turn out of people.

Discussion took place concerning the LNG project. The project is going well. Concerns were expressed on the oppositions being heard on the LNG project coming to the area. Best advice is to stay informed. Check web sites for information and educate yourself.

**Coos Bay Downtown Association** - Renee reports that a meeting will be Monday at noon. A reminder that the Farmers Market is today and every Wednesday, downtown Coos Bay on Central avenue.

**Southwestern Oregon Community College** - Jon reports commencement for SOCC will be this Friday night. The Culinary institute is hiring a Director. The college is in transition with new administration. The Disney Institute training is coming to SOCC in September. This is a great opportunity to learn from the masters of PR/marketing.

**CCD Business Development Corporation**- Theresa reports that things are going well. Lots of projects are going on. She stated that Ron Opitz is a great source for the business information.

**Announcements**- Shirley shared that 3 major motion pictures are proposed to be filmed in our area. First picture is scheduled for October. These films are rated A productions, which mean they will showcase at least one major actor/actress. It is expected that these movies will rent around 200 rooms in the area, during the time they are shooting.

Business after hours is at Oregon Satellite, Wednesday June 26<sup>th</sup>

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