

**Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
Board Minutes
March 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; Ken Croes, KCBY; Johanna Dillard, Coastal Paper & Supply; Barbara Gunnell, Community Financial Services; Joanie Johnson, Sincerely Yours! Antique Mall; Dick Leshley, Yellow Cab Taxi; Renee Middleton, US Bank; Scott Nay, Baycrest Village; Timm Slater, Consultant; Brandy Thompson, Cardinal Services; Sherry Yarbrough, Umpqua Bank; Shirley Liberante, Chamber; Connie Davis, Chamber; Community-at-Large: Rob Schab, Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board.

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

The minutes of the February 1, 2006 meeting were unanimously approved as mailed.

President's Report - Chris reported that the Community Pride Program is getting underway. He said that he met with Coos Bay City Manager Scott McClure and they discussed getting the media involved in the program with PSA's and advertisements. They decided to send letters to people not in compliance with keeping the sidewalks and road frontage of their property in good order. A discussion was held to make this a positive campaign and to use the County tax assessor system to identify the owner of properties to receive a letter.

Chris reported that the Rapid Response Team would be available to respond to requests from "ports of entry" such as the Cities, Real Estate offices, SCDC, the Chamber -- anywhere people coming into the area are likely to visit for information on relocating. Plans are to put together 4 or 5 teams of business leaders, who are available on short notice, to meet with these people, give them a feel for what is going on with the local economy and provide them with information. Bonnie Barron asked to be included in the group.

Executive Director's Report - Shirley reported that the new Business Directories will be out next week. She said that out-of-town members books will be mailed, and local members books will be hand delivered.

She asked Board members to please make a phone call to new members, welcome them to the Chamber and let them know the community cares.

Shirley stated that the latest new members are Theresa Asper, a dentist located on Park street and Colette's Crepes, a new restaurant located next to the Waterfront Players in Pony Village Mall.

She reported that one of our new members, American Press, is printing a new brochure, created by Sarah, on Children's Activities.

A discussion was held as to whether or not Springhill Press was doing new Chamber maps. Shirley explained that we have a contract with our current provider to print 3 batches of maps and so far we have printed two. She said that we have so many of them that we won't be printing more for awhile and can't break the contract.

Shirley explained that we don't endorse anyone, other than Chamber members. It was suggested that we put out a notice to that effect in the monthly newsletter and the Chamber quarterly. Also to let people know via a notice if we are endorsing a particular business that will be contacting other members.

Shirley reported that the Flags & Flowers committee will be a real tie-in with the Community Pride Committee. She said that Flags & Flowers are going for grants and work with the City of Coos Bay and ODOT on projects. She said that plans are to extend the sidewalk leading from the Red Lion over the hill (across from the Timber Inn) into the downtown area so that people staying at the Red Lion can walk to town safely. She said that ODOT offered to do the feasibility study for the City on that project and that they are currently working on highway access for the new Home Depot.

Shirley stated that the Governor's Conference will be held in Eugene the first part of April. They raffle baskets that depict the area and those baskets go to the highest bidder. She said that our local basket will include certificates for dining, lodging, things to do, brochures, local wines and more. She asked anyone interested in contributing to the baskets to call her.

It was mentioned that Kozy Kitchen will be opening a new restaurant in the former location of Bradley's.

Shirley said that the Chamber will be hosting Bob Braddock at the IBO Lunch Forum on March 15th. Bob will be speaking on the upcoming LNG Project and will bring in a subsidiary contractor Williams Pipeline. LNG brings in entities for public meetings to make sure that the general public has all the information. Shirley asked if the Board would like to take action of support for this project and explained that the general membership needs to know that the Chamber Board supports it. Dick Leshley moved and Ken Croes seconded to support the project. A discussion was held regarding writing a letter of support and gathering names of folks to be contacted instead of just sending letters to the general population. Also mentioned was including in the letter the Board's unanimous support of the project and asking for members to send in comments. A scoping meeting is scheduled for April 14th at the North Bend Community Center. It was agreed that the Board would support the "concept" and wait till after the scoping meeting, when all the facts have been presented, before issuing a letter. **It was agreed to table the motion, made by Dick and Ken, until a later meeting when all the Board members are present to have input and a final decision could be made.**

Treasurer's Report -Barbara Gunnell called attention to a report that she distributed showing January 05 and 06 comparisons. She said that there are a few things to figure out and there is an overlap in the Community Profile and Economic Outlook Forum where the income comes in at the end of one year and the expenses are paid at the beginning of the next year.

Committee & Community Reports

Lumberjack Competition – Rob Schab reported that the group had their first meeting and this year will be hosting the 6th Annual Competition. He said that they are exploring ideas for a new event – Log rolling (burling). He said that Douglas Timber Operators has been picking up costs that exceed the budget and that donations are always welcome to help support this project. Shirley said that the Chamber is in charge of publicity and liability for the event and work closely with The Mill on other details. She said that she and Donna, with Douglas Timber Operators, do the final counts at the event. She said that a letter will be sent out asking for support. A discussion was held regarding the number of rooms rented for that weekend. Shirley said she wasn't sure about that but 1100 people generally attend and this year a couple more stands will be constructed to accommodate additional attendees. Shirley talked about the Outdoor Channel wanting to cover the event but that they wanted money to do so. She said that generally advertising is sold to pay for that and coverage is free to the group putting on the event.

Coos Bay-North Bend Water Board –Rob Schab reported that they completed construction of the Pony Creek Dam in 2000 and he recently saw the first water go spilling over indicating that the dam is finally filled. He said that the construction engineer has made his inspection and they expect the final sign-off on the project soon. Rob reported that the "under the bay" crossing to connect water to the North Spit is expected to be finished by the end of the month. He said that DB Western and Southport Lumber and any other businesses that locate there in the future are looking forward to the completion because it will give them increased fire protection. Rob said that the pipeline is 65' deep at the deepest point and does not interfere with any activity in the channel.

Tourism – Jenny Bream mentioned that Marty Giles asked her to report that a Customer Service "Q training" session will be held on March 16th at the Newmark Center from 1-4pm. She said that it will be \$10 per person and people could call Lori Capps for information. Shirley said that the class costs \$25 and that OCVA picks up the remaining \$15 so people can attend for a discounted rate.

Shirley said that "Ocean Beaches" signs will be ordered soon so that tourists will know that we actually have beaches in the area. She said that this had been delayed because ODOT had a personnel change. This project is expected to be finished before the summer tourist season.

Government Affairs – Dick Leshley reported that the group heard from Scott McClure, City Manager of Coos Bay at the last meeting and next month's speaker will be Jan Willis, City Administrator of North Bend.

He said that they learned that the water rushing on Koosbay Blvd was caused by a pipe 40' down that had collapsed.

Dick stated that now is the time that our Legislators are considering bills and issues. He said that this is the time to contact them with any information and not to wait until they are in session. Shirley said that she has names and phone numbers and people are welcome to call her for that information.

Board Members – Shirley said that since Eileen Ophus is off the Board, it leaves an opening for a new member. She asked people to be thinking about people who would be good additions to the Board.

Having no further business, President Christoffer adjourned the meeting.