

**Bay Area chamber of commerce
Board of Directors
September 6, 2006
Red Lion Hotel – 7:00 am**

Members Present: Chris Christoffer, Sterling Bank; Timm Slater; Dick Leshley, Yellow Cab; Ken Croes, KCBY-TV; Tom Scheideman, Weyerhaeuser Co.; Barry Hayes, Pony Village Mall; Tom Jackman, Menasha Forest Products; Ron Opitz, South Coast Development Council; Scott McClure, City of Coos Bay; Joanie Johnson, Sincerely Yours! Antiques; Bonnie Barron, Bay Area Hospital; Jan Willis, City of North Bend; Lucinda DiNovo, The Mill Casino; Renee Middleton, US BANK; Jenny Bream, Brian Bream Screw Machines
Others Present: Shirley Liberante, Executive Director Chamber of Commerce; Pam Cottrell, Office Manager

President Chris Christoffer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

The minutes of August 2, 2006 Board Meeting were unanimously approved as mailed.

President's Report – Chris invited everyone to attend the Chamber Retreat. The retreat will be October 13th, 7:am – 10:45am, at The Mill Casino, Salmon Room. The retreat will include October Board meeting. The intent of the retreat is to check that the Chamber is going in the right direction. We will discuss economic growth in the area, and “to be sure that our ducks are in a row.” Last years goals for each committee will be e-mailed to board members. Please take a look at these goals and make changes. Email your changes to Shirley. Discussion on changes or ideas will be the topic of conversation at this retreat. Fun Festival is next week end. This is always a good time in downtown Coos Bay.

Executive Director's Report- Shirley announced her replacement as Director of the Chamber is Katherine Hoppe from Pony Village Mall. Katherine will start her new position on October 9th. Shirley will work closely with Katherine to ensure a smooth transition. Chris thanked the selection Committee for their efforts in interviewing for Shirley's replacement. There were 15 applicants, from those interviews Katherine was selected to be the New Executive Director for the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. Preparation for EOF has begun. EOF will be December 8th at The Mill Casino. Speakers have been lined up. It is going to be a great forum.

Directory Profile update request were mailed to members September 5th to assure information printed in the 2007 directory is correct and updated. Tony Buxton will be selling advertising, to be printed in the directory, starting the end of September.

September 26th 4:30 – 7:30 pm Taste of the Town, at Pony Village Mall. Local restaurants will showcase samples of their fare. Donations will purchase school supplies for 3rd grade classrooms for both Coos Bay and North Bend Schools.
September 27th Soroptimist will host Business After Hours, 5-7 pm at Black Market.

Treasurer's Report – Barb Gunnell was excused from today's meeting. Shirley reports that last month Barb reported that the Chamber has money. This still holds true. Membership renewal continues. We welcome new members: Mamma-Mia, Pony Village Mall. Mamma Mia will be having their ribbon cutting on September 17th. Lucky Dragon Buffet, Pony Village Mall. Ribbon cutting to be announced; Mountain Matters, downtown Coos Bay, Ribbon cutting to be announced; Brooke Insurance, downtown Coos Bay, Open house was Friday September 1st.

Tourism- Jenny Bream and Joanie Johnson, report. This committee is working on goals to share at this years retreat. Joanie, introduced a new business to the Area. A Kite shop in downtown Coos Bay, owned and operated by Erica . Erica is planning on becoming a Chamber member. She brings ideas to the area to promote tourism. In the planning right now, is a Kite flying demo to be held at the Coos Bay Dock during Fun Festival. There are hopes for a Kite flying competition that will sport small kites that can be given away by local businesses. These kites could have something like a "city seal" printed on them. The cost would be about \$3 each.

Economic Development- Will meet, on Monday, September 25th. There are plans for a speaker to discuss "Employable Employees".

Barry reports, that Pony Village Mall has been for sale for several months. A couple from the Monmouth, California area has shown great interest in developing the property.

IBO - IBO kick off will be September 13th. 11:30 am -1:00pm at The Mill in the Salmon Room

September 13th –Bill Zuppe, CEO and founder of Sterling Bank will be the key note speaker; let's have a great attendance.

September 20th- Legacy Benefit-Health and Savings Account

September 27th- Rebecca Morris – OCVA

CB/NB Tourism and Conventions Bureau- is comprised of 2 people from Coos Bay, 2 people from North Bend and 1 board member. Trisha Benetti has announced that she will be stepping down at the end of her term. The chamber would like to ask that applications be submitted for the position. The application will stress multi media marketing experience.

Government Affairs - Dick Leshley announced that the first fall meeting will be September 19th at 7:30 at the Red Lion. Goals for the retreat will be discussed.

Forestry & Fisheries – Timm Slater announced meetings will be held the 3rd Friday of each month at 7am at the Red Lion. The group is made up of 20-30 Timber operators.

Leadership Coos - Pam Cottrell and Jenny Bream shared that 30 participants are registered for this year session, the largest number of participants to date.

The first session will be September 12th. These are full day sessions, jammed packed with speakers and tours of the area. This month's topic is The History of Coos Bay. It's sure to be a great year.

Banquet Committee - This year's banquet will be January 27th. More information to come.

Transportation - Martin Callery announced the first meeting will be September 7th, 11:30 am at Port conference room. This is a BYOL (bring your own lunch). Gary LeTellier from Southwest Oregon Regional Airport will speak.

4 Star Awards Committee – Shirley shared that there are 5 awards ready to be presented this fall.

City of North Bend - Jan Willis reported that a meeting will be held today at the North Bend Library. This meeting is for local leaders and businesses to meet with a committee that advises on Oregon Downtown Development. Coos Bay had a like team in 2000. This year North Bend was picked for the committee to visit. This committee will be looking at Retail, Housing, and Landscape. North Bend will continue working with CEDCO and Home Depot. A new business has opened in downtown North Bend, Lyla's. Downtown facades are in the process of being redone. Christophe's is working on his now. Wayne Schrunk will be starting his soon. All of the downtown facades should be done in the next couple of years.

City of Coos Bay - Scott McClure reports that WiFi has had some technical difficulties. The city is continuing working on the best placement for towers. The city is working on a grant program to assist downtown businesses and Empire businesses to have access to money to redo business facades. In the past there has been money made available for new awnings. This grant will help with a wide scope of business front needs. FEMA is looking at the needs of homeowners on Illinois Street and Old Wireless road. The dike is failing. Last year many on these homes experienced flooding. The Egyptian Theater is looking into purchasing a DVD system. It would be available for meeting presentations. The fire station is considering two sites for a new location. There will be a meeting September 11th at 6:30 at the Coos Bay Library to discuss these new sites.

Port of Coos Bay and Charleston – Martin Callery shared that the Seafood festival was a great success. There was a good turn out of people for this event. Charleston has the Taste of Charleston coming up and the Boat Lighting during the holidays. A steering committee will start meeting soon to discuss the development of Land. The Port has a new website. This web site talks about Economic development in the area. There is also a lot of information on the LNG project for people to refer to.

President Christoffer opened the floor for discussion. Joanie Johnson announced that Sincerely Yours Antique Mall will be moving to the old Hospice store location in downtown Coos Bay. Many ideas and concerns were shared on the parking availability for businesses, in Coos Bay and North Bend. The importance of leaving the parking closest to the business open for people that will be shopping and using the business. Safety concerns were shared. The areas

should be well lit and security available. After much discussion a reminder was made to attend the meeting September 11th at the Coos Bay Library at 6:30 pm. This issue of downtown parking will be discussed at this meeting.

Adjournment- President Chris Christoffer, asked if there was any further business to be discussed. Hearing none, meeting was adjourned.