

Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors
August 6, 2008
Red Lion Hotel-7am

Board Members present: Ken Croes, KCBY; Karl Bender 3 B's Nursery; Mel Campbell, Campbell Vacation Apts/Charleston; Chris Davis, Davis Oil; Pam deJong, HOLM; Eric Farm, Menasha Forest Products; Matt LeDoux, Fishermen's Wharf; Ray Penny, All State Real Estate; Gary Rifkin, Fiddlesticks; Crystal, Shoji, Shoji Planning, LLC; Margery Whitmer, Betty Kay Charters; Lucinda DiNovo, The Mill Casino/Hotel; Joanie Johnson, Sincerely Yours Antiques; Jim Hough, Hough, MacAdam & Wartnik.

Others present: Martin Callery, Oregon International Port of Coos Bay; Theresa Haga, CCD Business Develop Corp; Ron Optiz, South Coast Development Council; Patti Denton, Prudential Seaboard Properties; Chris Christoffer, Sterling Savings Bank; Dick Leshley, Yellow Cab; Timm Slater, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, Pam Cottrell, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce.

President Ken Croes called the meeting to order. Minutes were approved.

President's Report- Ken reports that he attended the Coos Bay City Council meeting last night. He reported on the Chambers activities. The same report will be given at the North Bend City Council meeting next week. It is a known fact that if you know six people, they know 6 people and on. We would know everyone in the universe.

Timm has drafted a letter to the US Department of Transportation, concerning the impact of losing the North bound flight at the airport. Besides the impact that losing this flight has on our local businesses, the letter brought to my attention that we will loose medical transportation for medical needs.

Executive Director's Report- Timm reports The Airport district, the Cities and many others filed official protests against the lost of airport service to the north. Economic Outlook Forum will be December 12th. We will have an organization meeting for the planning of EOF later this month. Membership Drive has been moved to September 25th. Tony will be contacting you to advertise in the 2009 Directory. A letter was sent as a Newsletter insert, explaining the advertising opportunities and timeline for the Directory. We opted to put the letter as a newsletter insert rather than mail the letter. This saved over \$400 in postage. Our focus is to distribute the Directory at the Chamber Awards Banquet in January. Chamber Planning Retreat is planned for October 24th. You have received a recap of my "Director Chats." Take a moment to review the comments, as there are some great ideas and it gives you a flavor for our organization. Dick and I have been scheduling speakers for IBO. I will pass out a schedule of speakers to the first of the year, although we also have some scheduled through spring.

Federal Surface Transportation Board hearing will be held in Eugene August 21, at the Federal Courthouse. If you are interested in speaking you must file a letter of intent to speak by August 11th.

There are two issues to be discussed, first the Feeder line application for the Port to purchase the railroad from CORP. The second issue is CORP application to abandon the railroad lines.

Our nominating committee: Dick Leshley, Jenny Bream and Crystal Shoji have seven nominees to fill the four open director positions. The nominees are Kyle Zender, Wayne's Color Centre; Cinda Arney, Express Blinds; Mark Mattechek, North Bend Lanes; Lori Kernos, Bay Area Hospital; Jessica Randle, The Human Bean; Eric Farm, Menasha and Ray Penny, All Star Real Estate. Bios and ballots will be sent out in a week to a week and a half.

Treasurer Report- Jim reports that according to the report compiled by Clare Gove CPA, the Chamber has cash of \$115,000.00. The Chamber is inline with our budget, year to date.

Fishery & Forestry- Eric reports that at Lumberjack wrap up meeting it was discussed to add a public education behind the bandstand to next year's event. The purpose will be to educate the public on Forestry. Our next meeting is the 3rd Friday of the month.

Dick asked the question on how involved is Fisheries. Margery answered that the Fisheries are very involved in state and federal processes.

Our idea would be to have Fisheries speak at an IBO to share this information with the Chamber. Lucinda added to have the STEP program involved.

Leadership Coos- Pam reports that the new session is taking shape. Applications are coming in. First session will be September 9th. She thanked the board for their continued support of the Leadership Program.

IBO- Dick reports that plans are to feature more businesses. He asked the board to call if they have a subject or a business that you would like to know more about.

Transportation- Martin reports that the committee has been on summer hiatus. Next meeting will be in September.

Economic Development- Chris reports that Economic Development forum will look at issues and have more voice in the community on Economic issues. There are currently three projects in progress.

1. Economic Partners
 - a. What is available
 - b. Who to talk with
 - c. We will produce a reference card for the public
2. Inventory of Land available
3. New Business Challenge

Chris asked Arlene to report on New Business Challenge. Arlene explains that this is a grant program. Start up businesses may receive a grant for services. These services would be donated by local businesses. The services would be accounting, media, etc. The process would be that an interested person would write a business plan and submit the plan to the committee. The plan would be reviewed and voted on; the winner would receive the grant. The idea is community businesses helping new small businesses get started. Sponsoring Businesses would receive value through public relations.

Timm shared that the executive committee supports Economic Development in starting the program. If you need a spin off group, let the board know. Those who are interested talk with Chris and Arlene.

Government Affairs- Timm reports the County Commissioners are scheduled to speak at IBO on October 29th. Joanne Verger will speak on November 12th.

Four Star Awards- Joanie reports that six awards were presented by Timm and the Ambassadors. The awards were delivered to K-Dock, The South Coast Shopper, Berger's Top Service, Oregon Wine Cellars, The Oregon Connection and The Pancake Mill.

Ambassadors- Patti reports that the Ambassadors have been very busy. This month a ribbon cutting for D's Medi Tans on August 18th from 4-7pm, Fiddlesticks on the 19th at 3pm, Business after Hours on the 27th at Business Development Center . We have been very busy with the Convention that will be held in Coos Bay/North Bend October 2-5. Looking forward to about 250 people visiting our area, they are coming to relax and enjoy the Bay area.

Tourism- Margery reports that the committee has been on summer hiatus.

Charleston- Martin reports that The Tuna Classic in Charleston will be held August 9th. This is the first year that the Classic will be in Charleston. The response has been tremendous. Fishermen will come and stay in the area Thursday thru Sunday.

Lucinda shares that there are 70 teams a total of about 200 people to participate in this event. The fish will be donated to the South Coast Food Bank.

Matt shared that sport fishing boats have reported that Tuna are about 22 miles out. These are cold water Tuna, a little larger fish. So Tuna are here.

Martin reports other events taking place in Charleston are Charleston Seafood Festival, August 16th and 17th, sponsored by the Charleston Volunteer Fire Department and Aug 28th and 29th Shorebird Festival at OMBI.

Port of Coos Bay- Martin reports that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) will hold a Public Hearing in Eugene on August 21st. Two railroad proceedings currently before the Board. One proceeding involves an application by the Central Oregon & Pacific Railroad (CORP) to abandon and discontinue railroad service. The other proceeding is an application by the Port to purchase the railroad line. If Rail American is successful in abandoning the line, they could sit on the right of way. They have also proposed to sell the rails for scrap and then sell the right of way. This would cause our area to lose manufacturing. Both American Bridge and South Port Lumber chose to locate here because of the rail service. Losing this service has caused these companies to find other ways to transport goods. The financial impact has been substantial. Our engineers have been denied access to the rail lines to inspect the 3-5 tunnels that have been described as unsafe and needing repairs. Now 5-6 tunnels are said to need immediate repairs or replacement. STB will rule on stand on abandonment in October or November.

South Coast Development Council- Ron reports four new businesses are looking at our area. They are not big businesses, but interested in the community. We are in the process of working with the governor's office to restore flight service to the North. Oregon Resource Corporation continues to move forward. They are becoming part of our community. Airport activities, KCBY is running ads to promote the new airline, there will be a series of ads. City co-op is promoting the service. I attended a town meeting with Arnie Roblan and Joanne Verger talking about Economic Development.

CCD Business Development Corporation- Theresa shares that South Port Lumber is a state of the art facility. She asked that the board support them. We have been visiting our borrowers and touching base with our clients. Showing our support toward their businesses and doing site visits.

Coos Bay Downtown Association- Joanie shared with the board that the Blackberry Arts Festival will be August 23rd. The Farmers Market will be downtown on Sundays from 10-3 starting this weekend. She reminds everyone to shop local and support businesses.

City of Coos Bay- Chuck reports that the city has granted \$15,000 to be used to promote the Farmers Market and Shop Coos Bay. The City is working on buildable land inventory. It is costly to prove what lands are buildable and which are not. Last night at the City Council meeting, floor plans were approved to expand the Visitor Center. The project is expected to cost about \$850,000. Phase III reorganizing of public works is continuing. We are moving offices and departments inside City Hall. Public Works is currently hidden in the back, not easy for the public to find. We have plans to move those offices to the front. Also at the City Council meeting it was approved to suspend the System Development Charges. After looking at the plan with Home Depot, it is thought that these charges are hindering new growth to the area.

Karl asked the Board, who gives the final say so to vendors that participate in the Downtown Farmers Market. Outside businesses come to the area and compete with local businesses. He thought that the idea behind the Farmers Market, initially, was for local producers to be able to sell their produce. There are vendors that have booths at the market that buy their plants from wholesalers and re sell them at the market.

It was suggested that Karl could sell his inventory at the market by applying and setting up at the Farmers Market.

Karl explained that he runs his business following the state, county and city guidelines and he pays local taxes. The vendors at the Market don't do any of those things. To have a booth at the market would be an extra cost over and above running his business.

Ken suggested that further discussion could follow "at the water Cooler."

Adjourned