

**Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors
May 6, 2008**

Board members present: Sherry Yarbrough, Umpqua Bank; Matt LeDoux, Fishermen's Wharf; Pam deJong, HOLM Services; Dana Webber, Sterling Savings Bank; Joanie Johnson, Sincerely Yours Antiques; Gary Rifkin, Fiddlesticks, Eric Farm, Menasha/Campbell Group; Mark Mattechuck, North Bend Lanes. Jessica Randle, The Human Bean; Chris Davis, Carson-Davis Oil Co. Karl Bender, Three B's Nursery; Crystal Shoji, Shoji Panning, LLC; Margery Whitmer, Betty Kay Charters; Ken Croes, KCBY TV.

Other present: Dick Leshley, Yellow Cab; Joyce Jansen, City of Coos Bay; Theresa Haga, CCD; Johanna Dillard, Coastal Paper; Matt Jarvis, Jarvis Communications;; Chris Christoffer, Sterling Savings Bank; Pam Plummer, Umpqua Bank; Martin Callery, Port of Coos Bay; Jan Willis, City of North Bend, Timm Slater, Bay Area Chamber; Pam Cottrell, Bay Area Chamber.

Sherry welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Introductions were made around the table. April minutes were approved.

Mark Mattechuck played the Visitor Convention Bureau convention, New Adventure Coast CD for the board. This production will be available in the new convention packet that will be used to encourage event planners to bring their event to our area. The production will be available by CD or Thumb drive.

President report: Sherry announced that Joe Benetti will be the representative for the Southwestern Regional Airport District.

Additionally as the board's treasurer Jim Hough has resigned, we would like your approval for Chris Christoffer to act as interim treasurer this year. Motion was made, 2nd and approved.

Sherry also wanted to introduce the board to the 40/20 program used by the Eugene Chamber. This program recognizes 20 leaders in the community under the age of 40 years old. This would be a great way to get younger people involved. The board agreed that this was a good program.

Sherry also shared with the board that Kevin Stufflebean recall was defeated. The vote count was 55% no, 45% yes.

Executive report: Timm reports that an e-mail was sent out to Chamber membership asking them to vote on receiving the Chamber monthly newsletter by e-mail. Of the 800 polled, 6 responded in favor of receiving the newsletter by e-mail, while, 5 responded they prefer to continue receiving the newsletter by mail.

The newsletter cost about \$6700 per year to print and mail. One idea to pursue is e-mail the newsletter for two months and on the third month print the newsletter. After some discussion, Timm stated that we will refine our options and make appropriate changes.

Timm reported that today's IBO will feature a presentation from Leadership Coos. Leadership Coos is entering their 20th year. He invited the board to attend and show their support for the Leadership Coos program.

On May 16th the Chamber will host a table at the 2nd annual South Coast Employment Council Business Conference at The Mill Casino/Hotel.

Treasurer Report: Chris reports that the Chamber has \$100,000 in assets, \$89,000 of that amount is cash. Revenue this month is \$19000. Net Income is -\$28,000. He will have a thorough report next month.

Coos Bay Downtown Association: Joyce reports that Farmers Market will begin on May 27th. Farmers Market will be on Wednesday from 9am – 3pm. The next board meeting will be Monday at Noon at the North Point office.

North Bend Downtown Association: Joanna reports that she has walked thru the North Bend Hotel. The Hotel renovations are coming along.

A Community clean up is being organized for June. It is planned to hire Shutter Creek inmates to clear brush.

July Jubilee will be July 17 & 18. North Bend Lanes will be hosting Show & Shine. Taste of Downtown will be hosted by Sozo Tea and Coffee. A Roller Derby event is being planned. The next meeting will be the Last Thursday of the Month at Sozo's.

City of Coos Bay: Joyce reports the construction of the new Fire Department is moving forward. Demolition of the church on the new site is about to begin. There are plans to salvage materials to be reused as part of the effort of being Green.

Plans to remodel the Visitor Center are continuing with construction to start this summer.

The Clamboree is planned to take place in Empire June 27 & 28.

City of North Bend: Jan reports that the North Bend Hotel refurbishing is on schedule. The upper floors are sheet rocked and painted. The exterior will be painted in the spring.

The Castle Building has new owners.

Shorebank & Urban Renewal have low rate loans available for façade improvements.

The Budget Committee met and the budget was passed.

Pool contractor will be finished by mid June.

There are plans to repave Sherman Avenue next year.

Charleston: Margery reports that the Visitor Center opened May 1st. Charleston successfully unveiled the new Charley with ceremony Saturday May 2nd.

Port of Coos Bay: Martin reports Plans to rehabilitate the rail road tunnels, with stimulus funds, to start June 15th.

Port budget passed.

Blessing of the Fleet in Charleston will occur Memorial Day at 10am.

CCD: Theresa reports that USDA and SBA audit are completed. Year End Budget balanced and passed. We are currently doing site visits to our customers.

IBO: Last week's IBO presenter was Java Jones – Laurie Moore.

Timm asked for help from board members to plan 09/10 topics for IBO. The idea is to promote topics important to business with good speakers.

Four Star Awards: Sherry reports that four 4 Star Awards will be presented at IBO today. Bay Appliance and TV, Wanda's, Epiphany's and Mini Pet Mart are being recognized for their excellent customer service.

Jan mentioned the United Way Clean up that took place on April 25th. People helping people. She suggest that the Chamber organize something community wise.

Ambassadors: Pam Plummer reports the Ambassadors will attend IBO today to award 4 Star Awards and support Leadership Coos.

Tourism: Margery reports that there will be no Tall Ships scheduled to dock this year. The "By the Wind" event is on hold. She asked everyone to support the Tuna Classic.

Economic Development: Chris reports that the New Business Challenge Committee is looking for an attorney to provide 3-4 hours of in kind services to fill out the package for this year's award

Transportation: Martin reports that the next meeting is Thursday 11:30 in the Port Conference room. The speaker will be Danelle Valentino from Go 21. This will be a good opportunity to hear about the railroads on a national basis.

Other Items: Karl Bender voiced concerns about Farmers Market and outside vendors. He will send a letter out to the board, the City and the Downtown Association.

Adjourned

