

Board of Directors
April 6, 2005
Red Lion Hotel – 7:00am

Members present: Dick Leshley, President; Jenny Bream, President-Elect; Johanna Dillard, Vice President; Barbara Gunnell, Secretary; Chris Christoffer, Treasurer. Directors: Bonnie Barron, Bay Area Hospital; Ken Croes, KCBY-TV; Marty Giles, Wavecrest Discoveries; Mark Mattecheck, North Bend Lanes/Back Alley Pub & Grill; Joy McCarthy, South Coast Business Employment; Tom Scheideman, Weyerhaeuser Corporation; Timm Slater, Weyerhaeuser Company; Brandy Thompson, Cardinal Employment Services; Sherry Yarbrough, Umpqua Bank; Shirley Liberante, Executive Director; Connie Davis, Office Manager.

Guests: Daniel Sisneros, Marshfield High Student Representative; Christine Coles, Coos Bay Downtown Association.

President Leshley called the meeting to order and everyone present introduced themselves and their businesses.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the minutes of the March 2, 2005 meeting as mailed.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Marshfield High – School representative Daniel Sisneros reported that a spelling contest will be held with the winner representing the school in the annual state contest; the Junior Prom will be held on April 9th and tickets will be sold this week and next week; new ASB officers are currently running for election; Senior t-shirts and sweatshirts will be sold this week.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Leshley stated that we are having a really great year. He said that work is still ongoing regarding setting up a new Events Committee. He said that people on this committee would be “on call” and asked that anyone interested in assisting with this project can call him.

Dick reported that Sam Roth has agreed to be a new Board member.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

New Board Members - Shirley thanked Mark Mattecheck and Ken Croes for agreeing to be members of the Board and thanked them for being here today.

Budget – Shirley distributed copies of the budget and stated that it has been approved by the Executive Committee. She explained that it is a “break even” budget and is very similar to last year’s budget and she included those figures for comparison. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the budget as presented.

New Members – New members this month are Miss Linda Charters, Picture This Photography, First United Methodist Church, Occasions (Event planner) and 30+ new Century 21 Best Realty Agents.

Lumberjack Competition – Shirley reported that the event will be held on June 25th and will be free to everyone, thanks to the very generous donations from local businesses. She showed a rack card that has been designed by The Mill and said that it is developed to be a generic piece so that it can be used year after year. The Chamber is paying ½ the cost of this piece and KCBY has generously donated the other half in an advertising trade.

Tall Ships – Shirley reported that three Tall Ships will be in port with the *Bill of Rights* arriving on April 14th and staying till the 17th and the *Lady Washington* and *Lynx* arriving April 28th and staying until May 8th. Marty Giles said that she has been researching Tall Ships and noted several differences in the ships, their masts and sails. Shirley asked if she would be willing to write an article to share that information with the membership and general public and Marty agreed.

Four-Star Awards – Shirley explained in the past we have been giving the Four-Star Awards at the annual banquet, but she would like to start giving out these awards throughout the year to deserving businesses. She said that she will create and frame the awards and asked Board members to volunteer go to the winning businesses and present the award. Johanna Dillard suggested that since Greg Stevens is on the membership committee, perhaps he would be willing to send a photographer out to take pictures of the presentation so that the general public would be able to read about it in *The World*. Joy McCarthy said that she thought it would be a good idea for representatives from the Ambassadors to be present in their red coats. Shirley asked Johanna and Joy to coordinate their efforts so that this can happen.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chris Christoffer reported that we have \$129,000 in operating funds and \$257,000 in assets and the Chamber is in good shape.

OTHER OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

North Bend Downtown Association – Johanna Dillard reported that they are continuing to work on traffic issues. She said that the City needs to apply to the state to reduce the speed limit, then the association needs to present it to the City Council. She said that ODOT plans to do the street overlay in 2009, but the project could possibly be moved up to coordinate with the bridge project. She said that sidewalk resurfacing and lighting are also on their project list. She said that we will be seeing a lot of changes with the North Bend hotel in the next 3 or 4 years and that private investment dollars will really be making a big change in what goes on in North Bend. She stated that the City purchased new banners for the summer that are dark green and have a picture of a Tall Ship and that banner brackets will be installed permanently. She said that the parks department has been doing a lot of extra work and have opened up the area around the Visitor Center to make it a lot more visible. She also mentioned that they are working on the July Jubilee and there will be new events in conjunction with that this year.

Ambassadors – Joy McCarthy reported that they had a ribbon cutting at the Pacific Crest Housing Development and the event was sponsored by Northwest Natural Gas and Prudential Seaboard Properties. She said that this is an all-gas housing development.

Joy said that they will have a ribbon cutting on Saturday at noon at Fisherman's Wharf, which is a new seafood business located in the Charleston Marina on "D" dock. They will be holding a Grand Opening all weekend and will feature samples and discounts.

She mentioned that the Ambassadors have been invited to be judges for the awards given to vendors at the Annual Home Show this year.

Tourism – Marty Giles stated that this month's speaker might be addressing the South Slough bill. She said that a sub-committee has been working on a brochure for the Charleston-to-Bandon Tour Route and they hope to have it ready in May.

Economic Development – Tom Scheideman said that he and Adam Zimmerman have met with Jon Richards and Martin Callery and that they will be taking over as Co-Chairs of the committee within the next week or so.

IBO Forums – Dick Leshley reported that today's program will be "Colors". He said that the Forums have been drawing a good crowd with a good representation of area businesses. Shirley mentioned that the U.S. Army called her and are interested in presenting a program for the Forum. She said that they will probably be scheduled in the Fall since Forums are already scheduled for Spring and there are no Forums during the summer months.

CB-NB Tourism/Promotions – Mark Mattecheck reported that they are close to confirming a newly-hired marketing coordinator. He said that the first project to be addressed will be a coupon book that will be used to gauge the advertising that the group has purchased in newspapers, television, etc. Another project will be to produce a convention packet of our area that can be sent to prospective planners. He said that they have donated money to the Marshfield basketball tournament and to the North Bend wrestling tournaments since both events bring a lot of people into the area.

Shirley said that, probably in August, the marketing coordinator will be occupying an office upstairs in The Hub building office of the Chamber/Economic Development Partnership.

Government Affairs – Dick Leshley reported that the Tuesday sessions with the legislators are very successful. He said that they meet at 7:00am in the ESD building and have one hour with Republican representatives and one hour with Democratic representatives. He asked that anyone having issues affecting their business should make a point to attend since the legislators do listen to local issues and concerns.

Dick stated that representatives from the Judicial Committee will be in town for an 8:30 meeting on Friday. He said that Wayne Krieger is chair of that committee and that they will be talking about more money for drug prevention.

Forestry/Fisheries – Timm Slater stated that the group meets the 3rd Friday of each month at 7:00am at the Red Lion. Generally 30-35 people attend the meetings. He said that the Governor's natural resource advisor spoke at the last meeting and an open discussion was held. He encouraged everyone to attend and take the opportunity to learn more about natural resources.

Drugs Don't Work Task Force – Dick Leshley encourage everyone to attend the meetings and said that if everyone involved could focus their purpose that additional money could be available to finance drug prevention.

Leadership Coos – Connie Davis reported that this month's session will feature Arts, Entertainment and Recreation. The group will be visiting Bandon Dunes and South Slough. Next month this year's group will be graduating.

Coos Bay Downtown Association – Chris Coles reported that the Farmer’s Market will begin on May 18th this year and run until October 26th. She said that they have also begun work on the Blackberry Arts Festival and that the Downtown Association now has an e-mail address and website. Phone number is 266-9706.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark Mattecheck announced that he recently attended a Flags & Flowers meeting and the architect for the project will be putting some plans together. Shirley stated that due to the funding of different projects throughout the area that each separate entity will be providing flags and flowers for their own area. One place the committee will be focusing on is the area from the Red Lion to the Timber Inn and another is the Bunker Hill area.

Chris Coles announced that representatives from the Coos Bay Downtown Association recently took posters up and down the coast to advertise the Farmers Market and the Blackberry Arts Festival.

Shirley Liberante announced that the Food Network program filmed locally featuring Rachel Ray will be shown on Friday, May 13th at 9:30pm and 1:30am and on Wednesday, May 18th at noon.

Shirley announced that SCDC has completed their video and she hopes to get it on the Chamber website soon.

Marty Giles announced that she was recently hired by a producer and several college comedians that are doing a documentary, and visiting many college campuses throughout the country. She said that it will take 6-9 months to complete the production and it is possible that a small portion of film they shot in our Bay Area may be shown in their project.

Mark Mattecheck announced that the Pro Bowlers will be here this weekend and The Mill has been a major sponsor of the event.

Jenny Bream announced that she recently worked on the Hillcrest Elementary School Carnival and this is the first year that they made a profit. She said that all money will go back to Hillcrest for equipment for the children.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, President Leshley adjourned the meeting.