

**Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors
July 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; Bonnie Barron, Bay Area Hospital; Mark Mattecheck, North Bend Lanes/Back Alley Pub & Grill; Ken Croes, KCBY-TV; Joy McCarthy, South Coast Business Employment; Tom Scheideman, Weyerhaeuser Paper; Timm Slater, Weyerhaeuser; Greg Stevens, The World; Brandy Thompson, Cardinal Employment Services; Shirley Liberante, Executive Director; Connie Davis, Office Manager.
Guests: Chris Coles, Coos Bay Downtown Association; Scott McClure, City of Coos Bay.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the minutes of the June 1, 2005 meeting as mailed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The new SCDC video was viewed by everyone present. Shirley said that KVAL, KCBY's sister station, produced the video. She mentioned that she would be glad to make a copy of it for anyone interested in sending a copy to people interested in relocating a business here.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Coos Bay-North Bend Clean-up Committee – Shirley reported that the need for a CB-NB Clean-up committee was a major discussion at the last Executive Committee meeting. A discussion was held and several comments made were: after visiting another area and coming back home on the bus he had the opportunity to look around and see how grass and weeds have grown up and was dismayed at how sad the area looked; reference was made regarding the "Company's Coming" project that the Chamber sponsored in past years; the need for a "call to the community" to raise consciousness about how unkempt properties reflect against the area; the idea to turn to service clubs and the high schools to help provide manpower, and the media to get the word out about clean up/fix up; incorporate "most improved property" awards at the Chamber Banquet; turn weakness into strength; KCBY and The World would be glad to participate in an ad campaign; sidewalks along some main streets are partially, and some totally, blocked by weeds and berry vines; Flags & Flowers committee may be able to incorporate this into their projects and they have a list of all businesses; possibly get volunteers willing to send letters to businesses and/or residential property owners regarding cleaning up their property; put pressure on the County to keep the dump open on Sundays during the growing season (i.e. April through October) giving people the opportunity to dispose of yard debris; take pictures of offending properties; form an action team or committee to head up the project; get the community excited about the project.

Johanna Dillard stated that working on the North Bend Downtown issues they found that the education piece of a clean-up project is the most important. Such as letting people know that they are responsible for the upkeep of the sidewalk in front of their property, etc. Greg suggested that this is such an important issue that the committee should report on progress every month at the Board meeting. Ken Croes, Greg Stevens Chris Christoffer & Bonnie Barron volunteered to work on this committee. Shirley suggested that a meeting be scheduled sometime next week to discuss the process.

Lumberjack Competition – Shirley stated that the event drew competitors from all over the world, some of which were Australia, Canada, England, etc. She said that spectators filled the stands for both shows, and the bleachers hold between 1100 and 1200 people. Mill Management said that it's reached the point where they need to expand the event and will probably be putting in a log-rolling pond for next year's event.

Cinema 11 - Shirley reported that the grand opening was a great success with 800 people attending. She said that Coming Attractions was delighted with the turnout. The incredible piece is that the ads for the event were strictly Chamber driven.

Business After Hours – Shirley reported that the recent Business After Hours at Oregon Satellite was so successful that the owner wants to have another soon. She said that the earliest time available will be in a year and a half.

Trains – Shirley said that reservations for the train trip are now at 600. She said that they still need to get the certificate that will allow them to come over the railroad bridge. Plans are for the people to disembark on Front street and the road will be blocked off to traffic during that time. The train is scheduled to arrive on July 23rd at 6:30pm. She said that packets have been sent, that will be distributed to the passengers, that include our Community Profile/Business Directory and a list of restaurants and shops that will be open to accommodate them when they arrive.

Nominating Committee – Shirley mentioned that it is time to form a nominating committee to choose candidates for upcoming Board elections. She said that Marty Giles' term is expiring and also Ken Croes, Sherry Yarbrough, Tom Scheideman and Mark Mattecheck will be up for re-election. Shirley asked Jenny to take charge of selecting a committee to be comprised of 1 Board member and 1 non-Board member to assist her with recommendations. She said that nominations need to be turned in ASAP since ballots will be sent out in August.

Retreat – Shirley reminded everyone that it is time to start planning for the Board Retreat which will be held in early October.

Economic Outlook Forum – Shirley said that the first meeting for this year's Economic Outlook Forum will be in mid-August. She said she still needs to get in touch with Jon Richards, then will let everyone know when it will be. She mentioned that Adam Zimmerman and Tom Scheideman are the new co-chairs of the Economic Development committee and they will be involved in the Forum this year.

Board/Exec meeting - Shirley announced that, unless anyone had any objections, there will not be a Board meeting in August, nor will there be an Executive Committee meeting the end of July.

Banquet – Shirley announced that the Annual Awards Banquet will be held on January 28th of 2006 and Tony Esperance and his group "The Flashbacks" will provide the music.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Chris Christoffer reported that we made \$16,000 on the Profile this year and that the Chamber currently has \$105,000 in operating money.

OTHER OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS –

Ambassadors – Joy McCarthy reported that their next meeting will be Friday at noon at the Coos Art Museum. Lunch will be catered and Marty Giles will be attending to train the Ambassadors to be tour guides. (Members of the Ambassadors will be tour guides on the buses taking passengers of the vintage train on a tour of the Bay Area).

Joy said that the Ambassadors assisted at the Business After Hours at Oregon Satellite and the Lumberjack Competition. She said that they will be doing a ribbon cutting for the Waterfall Clinic at their open house at 3:45 on the 13th and everyone is invited to attend. The new office is located in the Woodland Medical Center.

Tourism – Mark Mattecheck reported that the tourism/promotions committee has produced a commercial, advertising the area, that will be played on all stations. He said that the coupon books are almost ready and that a convention packet is about 75% complete. Shirley said that we are working at putting the SCDC video on the Chamber website.

Economic Development – Tom Scheideman reported that he and Adam Zimmerman will be meeting with Shirley to talk about participating in the Economic Outlook Forum.

Government Affairs – Dick Leshley reported that they are still meeting every other week with the legislators and that they plan to have at least one more teleforum in about a week.

Forestry/Fisheries – Timm Slater reported that meetings are the 3rd Friday of every month. He said that even though much of the forest industry has been shut down, what is still in existence is still a significant part of the economy.

4-Star Awards – Johanna Dillard reported that she coordinated with the Ambassadors, Shirley, Board Members and Jan Willis and the group visited the four award winners' businesses. She said the winners were really excited about the honor, pictures were taken to record the occasion and Shirley read the letters she received that nominated them for the awards. Shirley mentioned that she currently has two nominations and asked everyone to be sure and nominate businesses that give exceptionally good service.

Leadership Coos – Connie Davis reported that there are 35 people on the waiting list and several have already responded and plan to attend classes in the Fall. She said that the recruitment brochures are finished and will be sent out with the July newsletter and that the yearbook went to the printer this week and should be ready to mail out by the end of the month.

COMMUNITY REPORTS

City of Coos Bay – Scott McClure reported that Home Depot is moving forward with plans to locate here; a new group has taken over the Stalcup site and plan to clean it up and prepare it for development; the metal building on the Museum property will be taken down; a group is working on the "Hollering Place" project in Empire; the City Council is working to prioritize the downtown improvement projects; some businesses that have been for sale have recently been purchased and changes are expected to be seen shortly; the asphalt overlay project on Ocean Boulevard will be starting soon and

Bracelin & Yeager will be doing the work. Scott addressed the question of the City having someone available to deal with overgrown properties and said that budget cutbacks have eliminated those positions. A discussion was held with a possible solution to have an RSVP volunteer write letters for the City to send to property owners needing to clean up their properties.

Port of Coos Bay – Tom Scheideman reported that the Port is in the process of starting the North Spit rail extension. He said there was a pre-bid meeting recently to discuss probable detours during the construction phase and where and when things will be shut down since they must keep the chip trucks running and access open for D.B. Western.

Tom reported that demolition at the Weyerhaeuser Paper Mill will begin in August and should take about 3 ½ months to complete.

Coos Bay Downtown Association – Chris Coles reported that the Wednesday Market is going well. She said that they plan to participate in a couple of surveys, one is with Nathan Sandwick of Shorebank Enterprise Pacific regarding potential for local farmers.

Chris said that the Blackberry Arts Festival will be held the last weekend of August and Tony Esperance will be providing entertainment for the event.

North Bend Downtown Association – Johanna Dillard reported that plans for the July Jubilee are coming together and a lot of activities are planned – a parade, carnival, birthday party in the park with bands and more. She said that a car show will be held at North Bend Lanes and the Back Alley Pub & Grill will have a “barbecue and beer night”. She said that a schedule of events is expected to be out on the 23rd.

Johanna said that a meeting was held by ODOT featuring training for growth management. She said the group watched slides on other communities and then walked the downtown area to identify some of the issues that need attention. She said that urban renewal monies are available to be used on upgrading the downtown corridor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shirley reminded everyone that the increase in Chamber dues began with the July 1st billings. She said that dues haven't been raised since 1996 and the Board voted on a 10% increase a couple of months ago. She said that a letter of explanation was sent out to members with the July billings.