

**Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors
July 1, 2009**

Board Members present: Sherry Yarbrough, Umpqua Bank; Pam deJong, HOLM Services; Margery Whitmer, Betty Kay Charters; Joanie Johnson, Sincerely Yours! Next Door; Lucinda DiNovo, The Mill Casino; Matt LeDoux, Fishermen's Wharf; Clark Walworth, The World; Crystal Shoji, Shoji Planning; Eric Farm, Menasha/Campbell; Chris Christoffer, Sterling Savings Bank; Mark Mattecheck, North Bend Lanes; Ken Croes, KCBY-TV; Mel Campbell, Campbell Vacation Apartments Jessica Randle, The Human Bean.

Others present: Dick Leshley, Yellow Cab Taxi; Joe Benetti, Southwestern Regional Airport; Matt Jarvis, Jarvis Communications; Jan Willis, City of North Bend; Rob Schab, CB/NB Water Board; Pam Plummer, Umpqua Bank/Ambassadors; Jeff McKeown, City of Coos Bay; Timm Slater, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce.

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

President report: Sherry reports that the Executive committee met last Thursday. The item that we would like to talk about this morning is our relationship with the Coos Bay Visitor Information Center. Information was distributed to those in attendance and an opportunity given to read the information. The Executive Committee would like to recommend that at this time, for your agreement /approval that the Bay Area Chamber discontinue their contract with the City of Coos Bay for managing the Visitor Information Center. This seems like the proper time to do that. The Visitor Center is in a state of transition to a new building and adding an economic development element. At one time the Chamber shared office space inside the Visitor Center, which made sense for the Chamber to manage the center. We have been out of the office since 2004.

We looked at what is the actual purpose of the Chamber, and in our by-laws it states that the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce is "organized to advance the prosperity of the Bay Area." All necessary means of promotion shall be pursued with particular attention and emphasis shall be given to the economic, civic, commercial, cultural, industrial and educational interests of the area. The Bay Area encompasses the communities of Coos Bay, North Bend, and surrounding areas.

Just because we will not be managing the Visitor Information Center, does not mean that we will no longer support it. We will always continue to support the communities of Coos Bay, North Bend and Charleston, as the Bay Area Chamber.

Mayor McKeown took the opportunity to remind the board that we are all of one community. He would like to see the City form a strong relationship with the Chamber and the Coos Bay Visitor Center. To be blunt, there is only one council member that does not see the value of the Chamber and its work at the Visitor Center. He doesn't speak for all of us. Mayor McKeown thinks it is important that we work together to make this community stronger. That is the goal of the Chamber and certainly is the goal of the City. My goals here are that we have a better relationship and work together to have a better community. I don't want the Chamber to pull away from the Visitor Center. There have been some problems. That is part of a relationship. If we can work on making a better relationship and enhance it, that is what I would like to see. I would like to see the Chamber continue with what they are doing. If you would take a moment, consider how can we make this relationship better and not end it. Let's let our primary goal to enhance what we do together.

Sherry reiterates that the Chamber will continue to support all three visitor centers.

After much discussion a motion was made that the Board respectively reject the Executive Committee decision to end the contract with the City effective October 3rd and to appoint a committee to attend

the next City Council meeting asking for the renegotiating of the contract to meet the needs of the Chamber, the City and the Community.

The motion was brought to vote by the voting board members. The vote was 6 for and 8 against. Second motion was, to terminate the contract with the City beginning October 3rd. During this 90 day period a delegation will meet with the City to renegotiate a new contract and report back to the board. The motion was brought to vote by the voting board members. The vote was 13 for and 1 against. A motion was passed to construct a letter to the City to terminate the current contract in 90 days. During that 90 day period the Board will send a delegation from the Chamber to meet with the City and renegotiate a new contract.

Mayor McKeown recapped that he would like to see a stronger commitment of the City and Chamber working together and not fracturing the relationship.

Sherry asked for volunteers that would like to serve on the committee to outline the Chamber's needs and conditions for a new service contract to run the Coos Bay Visitor Information Center. She received several responses. Timm will coordinate the meeting for the committee.

Director News: Chris announced that the Business Development Center has a free soft ware program on how to write a business plan. Please let those people you know that may be interested to go to the BDC and pick up a copy.

Lucinda announced that the Chamber will have a 50/50 drawing at the Air Show. Please come and purchase 50/50 tickets. The tickets are \$1 each or 7 for \$5. A table will be set up next to the stage to sell tickets.

Sherry asked for any **other business**.

Coos County Airport District: Joe reports that the process of hiring a new Director for the Airport has started. The flight schedule time change seems to be working. Business is continuing to increase. Percentages are up.

North Bend Downtown Association: Mark reports that July Jubilee is the 17th and 18th. There will be live music and a cruise.

Economic Development: Chris reports that New business Challenge grant is now at \$16000. Clark at The World has offered advertising in the paper, which added to the package. Applications are available. This is available to people who are starting a business or have been in business for less then 18 months. Timm adds that Arlene will be sending out a press release with more information.

Ambassadors: Pam reports that Business After Hours at BnT was poorly attended. She asked that the Chamber consider a summer hiatus on BAH. People are busy, may account for the poor attendance. Meeting adjourned