

**Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT)**  
**February 10, 2017**  
**Meeting Notes**

Chair David Hartz called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with the following were present: Jill Anderson, Julie Balmelli-Powe, Lynn Bashaw, Susan DeLaire, Bill Deutscher, Trevor Elliott, Michele Gallagher, Terry Harris, Flossie Heymann, Larry McGee, Mitch Moberg, Dr. Isaac Pope, Allyn Roe, Joanne Schwartz, Andy Skinner, Annalee Tobey, Wanda Thompson, Ed Wegele, Stacy Davis, Lewis County P.U.D; Tanya Laeger, Woodland Village; and Chip Dungan, Veterans Memorial Museum.

**1. Welcome and Introduction of Guests.** David welcomed Stacy Davis, Administrative Assistant, Lewis County P.U.D; Tanya Laeger, Marketing Director, Woodland Village; and Chip Duncan, Executive Director, Veterans Memorial Museum. David read aloud a thank you card received from Caryn Foley, City Clerk that was addressed to the CCRT members.

**2. Partner Updates & News**

**SW WA Fair:** Julie Balmelli-Powe, Chair of SW WA Fair Advisory Commission, spoke about the public meeting held at the fairgrounds last month. They had 75-80 attendees from the community and had a lot of input from the groups. The main request was for an old fashioned fair with a lot of community events. This year's fair theme is "I'm a Fair Kid" and the fair will be August 15-20, 2017.

**Veterans Memorial Museum:** Chip Duncan shared that this year is the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the Veterans Museum. They are hosting a large number of events including hosting many WA Bluegrass Association concerts in 2017, the Brothers in Arms Benefit Mother's Day Run in May, Desert War and Cold War Veterans Event in June, Civil War Battle July 15-16 to include evening events, Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day on August 6 with a highly honored Navy Chaplain scheduled to be the guest speaker, Rust or Shine Car Show on September 4 (Last year over 140 cars), Korean War Veterans & POW/MIA Day on September 24 ,and the Veterans Day Parade & BBQ/Music Event in Chehalis on November 11, 2017.

**City of Chehalis Sister City Program:** Denny Peace, Administrative Assistant to the City Manager, shared information about donating to the Sister City program through the Chehalis Foundation. This year marks the 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary between the City of Chehalis and Inasa, Japan. Councilor Ketchum sent a letter to local businesses in January along with a donation form requesting donations to fund the upcoming eight-member delegation visit on March 23-28, 2017. This program is funded entirely through community donations of funds and gifts. Donations for this event are made through the Chehalis Foundation. Members were asked to contact Denny Peace at City Hall if interested in volunteering to help with any of the scheduled activities.

**City of Chehalis:** City Manager, Jill Anderson, advised that the Council approved new city-wide phone system is now in place effective February 9, 2017. After the extensive winter snow and flooding, she recognized City Street staff for their hard work in keeping roads clear and accessible for citizens. Jill spoke of Infrastructure improvements such as the pump house at the Airport being completed through grants. She spoke of the 2017 goal of where the City will be investing monies from the General Fund for buildings and streets. She attended the LC EDC Banquet and spoke of the "Team Sport" ideas for economic development and how the LC EDC honored local community members with awards of recognition: The Gail and Carolyn Shaw Industry Award to J. Vander Stoep, the Economic Development Leadership Award to Amanda Hubbert and Trevor Elliott, and the Golden Shovel Award to Randy Mueller to name a few.

**3. Executive Director Update.**

- It has been an exciting and busy 6 weeks as Executive Director.
- New CCRT Committee Flyer describing the 4 pillars of CCRT: Design, Economic Restructuring, Organization and Promotion. This will be included in the Welcome kits and to new businesses.
- Attended Main Street Advocacy Day with David Hartz on January 25, 2017 at the State Capitol in Olympia, WA. They were able to meet with Representatives to discuss a State Bill created to increase the amount of donations from 1.5 million to 5 million for Main Street Programs as well as administrative changes to the program. One change would be to allow donations though the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the year up to the set amount per program.
- New CCRT Office is open at 60 NW Boistfort ST with phone #360-345-1738. A P.O. Box will be available in the near future.
- The CCRT plan will be printed and available at all CCRT meetings. This is also available online on the City of Chehalis' website.

## **Committee Reports**

**Design**-Michele Gallagher, the Banner Program banners are now installed in downtown. Flyers about the banners to Handed out to downtown businesses. The Bicycle Racks should be available in less than 30 days. The window display is currently Chehalis Middle School artwork. The Almost Home project will be up until April, the planters program will begin in the spring and the Design Committee can use volunteers for this program.

**Organization**-David Hartz, this committee meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. They are working on the new by-law changes. David Hartz, Committee Chair, attended a Lewis County services event for homeless persons held at the SW WA Fairground. He met Phil Owen from a Sidewalk Program in Olympia. David asked if members are interested in attending a breakfast meeting at Sweet Inspirations to discuss the displaced persons(homeless) situation in Chehalis please email him at booknbrush@gamil.com.

**Economic Restructuring**-Trevor Elliott, the list of available downtown buildings and suites is now available and has been posted to the Renaissance portion of the City's website, graphics for empty building windows will be created for building owners, the \$10, 000 Facade Program is being looked into using examples from other cities.

**Promotion**-Annalee Tobey for Lori Kahn, said that the Chehalis Visitor Guides are almost completed and will go to the Silver Agency today. These guides are similar to last year. The Chehalis scene E-Newsletter was sent out last week listing local business events scheduled. This E-Newsletter to be sent out every three weeks. The Chehalis Wedding Show has sold out all of the Vendor spots for the Wedding Show scheduled for February 18, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

## **4. Other Updates/Announcements/Good of the Order**

- Annalee reported the bathrooms downtown will be moved closer to the Colony House and the bids for lighting and cameras are to be received today. She has met with the City of Chehalis, Facilities Manager Andrew Hunziker and this should be completed by the time the Farmers Market begins.
- Andy Skinner's last day with the Lewis County Historical Museum is today, February 10, 2017. He will be the Program Manager for Reliable Enterprises beginning on Monday, February 13, 2017. He stated that he will continue to be involved with CCRT and will attend as many meetings as possible in the future. There is to be an open house farewell today from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the LC Historical Museum.
- Dr. Isaac Pope wanted to thank the CCRT members for all that they have done for the City of Chehalis. He also spoke about the upcoming Pope Kids' Place Gala to be held at the Great Wolf Lodge on March 11, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. This is an annual fund raising campaign to help fund the new administration building, the respite building, and a future transitional building for 18 year olds. He said that they currently employ 60 people and with these new buildings, they will employ up to 90 people. Dr. Pope invited everyone to come and see what we do.
- Wanda Thompson advised that the Chehalis -Centralia Train & Museum Valentines Dinner Train scheduled for Saturday, February 11 had sold out. This event for 60 participants was advertised via Facebook and Constant Contact. They then added a second Valentines Dinner Train ride for Sunday, February 12 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> event sold out in 4 days. Wanda said that they had the majority of interest from communities outside of Chehalis-Centralia.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

**Next Meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. City Hall Basement Meeting Room**

Meeting Notes respectfully submitted by Denny Peace, City Manager's Administrative Assistant.