

**Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT)**  
**January 13, 2017**  
**Meeting Notes**

Chair David Hartz called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with the following were present: Jill Anderson, Bret Bryan, Susan DeLaire, Bill Deutscher, Trevor Elliott, Caryn Foley, Christine Fossett, Terry Harris, Lori Kahn, Larry McGee, Mitch Moberg, Dr. Isaac Pope, Diane Raubuch, Lindsey Senter, Annalee Tobey, Wanda Thompson, Ed Wegele, Tamara Hayes, SWW Fair; Bobby Jackson, BOCC; Dan Kay, L.C. PUD; and Jason Vatne, Columbia Bank.

**1. Welcome and Introduction of Guests.** David welcomed Denny Peace, the new Administrative Assistant to the City Manager for the City of Chehalis along with Dan Kay, the new manager for the L.C. PUD and newly elected BOCC, Bobby Jackson.

**2. Partner Updates & News**

David and the CCRT recognized Caryn Foley for her years of support to the CCRT organization and congratulated her on her promotion to the City Clerk position. He also welcomed Denny Peace as the new Administrative Assistant who will be filling the role in place of Caryn. Due to the number of new members present, he explained the CCRT Organization structure: Design, Organization, Promotion and Economic Development. Now a Main Street Program, Annalee Tobey has been named the paid Executive Director and the 501(c)(3) Friends Non-profit Board is now the Organization committee, the Chair is now the President of the Organization Committee, and the City Manager will appoint a member to the board named by City Council. CCRT is now a Main Street Program and will provide quarterly updates to City Council and will continue to strengthen relationships with the City. Annalee Tobey to begin meeting monthly with Jill Anderson, City of Chehalis, City Manager.

Councilor Pope noted the City and CCRT have been working together since 2008 and together have made many things happen with B&O funds, 501(c)(3) funds and donations. Councilor Harris commented that CCRT is a unique organization of community co-operation and that Chehalis is "ahead of the curve" compared with other Washington cities. Larry McGee stated he has learned the value of volunteering in the community from his parents and has seen volunteer programs get a lot of things done in Chehalis.

**3. Executive Director Update.**

- Now have a physical location at 60 NW Boistfort Street with a meeting space and office.
- Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- Next week will have a telephone #, fax # and P.O. Box.
- B&O Tax Donations for 2017 are \$71,000. \$50,000 City of Chehalis, \$10,000 Security State Bank, \$10,000 Callisons, \$1,000 Book 'n Brush.
- Annalee to meet with the new WA State Main Street Program Manager next week.
- Doing Meet & Greets
- Committee Chair meetings regarding budget and plans for the future.

**Committee Reports**

**Design**-Andy Skinner: window displays are being changed out; bike rack project in progress; and new banners will go up the 1<sup>st</sup> of February.

**Economic Restructuring**-Trevor Elliott and Susan DeLaire new co-chairs for the renamed" Economic Development Committee." Project: "Why Chehalis" for new businesses in downtown.

**Promotion**-Lori Kahn: Chehalis Wedding Show, created to keep weddings here and bring in new weddings. To be held at The Loft February 18, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The 2016 show had 35 vendors, 85 brides and 380 attendees. 2017 they have already sold out for the vendor spots. Some trends: country weddings, some new vendors, using BBQ food services. Project for this year: website and video experience.

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

- 2017 Meeting Schedule provided: Jan 13-Feb 10-Mar 10-Apr 14-May 12-Jun 9-Jul 14-Aug 11-Sep 8-Oct 13 -Nov 3(special date)-Dec 1(special date)
- Denny Peace's email: [dpeace@ci.chehalis.wa.us](mailto:dpeace@ci.chehalis.wa.us)
- Chamber Banquet, January 20, RSVP to Lindsey @ the Chamber by today, January 13, 2017 (250 Max, 235 registered)
- LC Showcase, February 7, 2017 at the Loft, 10-4 to promote local business.
- Home & Garden Show May 19-21, 2017 at NW Sports Hub.
- Per Tamara Hayes, SWW Fair Community Meeting-idea meeting, to be held January 31, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.
- Dr. Pope to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> change the form of Lewis County Government Meeting on January 14, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.
- Jill Anderson advised of an Open House Meeting to answer questions regarding the Transportation Benefit District Ballot Measure to increase sales tax 0.2% for roads and streets will be held at City Hall on January 26, 2017 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.
- EDC Banquet, February 9: RSVP to Marrienne Schumacher, 748-0114.
- Local business selling handmade Seahawks picnic placemats and children's slippers: Lynn Harrison, at Lynn's Barber Shop, 44 NE Boistfort ST, 360-388-6762, [breezylynn@hotmail.com](mailto:breezylynn@hotmail.com). (Displayed by David Hartz.)

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

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

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

***Since 2009, the Chehalis Community Renaissance Team has been involved with several projects totaling over \$1 million. These projects were made possible through partnerships, grants, and community support. Projects completed in the last eight years include:***

- Resurfacing of a three block section of Chehalis Avenue, the historic main entrance to downtown. This upgrade included angled parking, bulb-outs, plantings, and benches. \$656,000
- Repair of a downtown irrigation system that had been out of use for 25 years. \$15,900.
- Addition of new soil and extensive plantings of 34 islands and bulb outs through the heart of the old business district. \$16,800 (This is supported on an ongoing basis by community donations.)
- Design construction and erection of 35 wayfinding signs, some of which extend to the city boundaries. \$100,000
- Adoption of a new logo and motto and the subsequent phase-in of that branding on city vehicles, uniforms, stationery and other signage. \$1,100
- A professional study of the concept of an R&D business incubator in the Chehalis Port. This was a joint effort of the CCRT, the Port and several concerned citizens, and utilized professional consultants. \$8,100
- Design, production and printing of the *Historic Downtown Chehalis Walking Tour* booklet which has only been provided by request and never bulk-mailed. Over 6,500 have been given out, many to visitors surprised to learn of such past facilities as a downtown opera house. This project involved very close cooperation with the Lewis County Historical Museum. The brochure is also available on mobile devices. \$11,600
- Determination of historically accurate naming, and then production of individually casted aluminum plaques for each old building in downtown, all of which corresponds to the walking tour brochure. \$6,800
- Design, production and printing of tourism brochures, distribution of a monthly e-newsletter, creation of the Experience Chehalis Facebook page, and a Choose Local First campaign. \$35,300
- The layout, acquisition and installation of bright energy-efficient Christmas lights for the downtown area and key streets leading to downtown. \$42,600
- Landscaping and planting of a traffic circle in a high density commercial area. \$27,500
- Litter pickup using the services of Reliable Enterprises along main road corridors used by visitors to the community. \$11,300
- Discover! Children's Museum investigation and funding of exhibits and 11-month pilot operation. \$153,000 (includes admission fees)
- Chehalis-Centralia Railroad (excursion steam train) strategic plan and audit. \$20,100
- Displays for empty storefronts. \$870
- Professional engineer review of historic St. Helen's Hotel. \$6,300
- Trees planted along Louisiana Avenue. \$5,000
- Review of six historic buildings by Historic Preservation NW. \$3,600

