

Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT)

May 12, 2017

Meeting Notes

Allyn Roe called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. The following were present: John Abe, Jill Anderson, Marcy Anholt, Tom Bradley, Bret Bryan Stacy Davis, Susan Delaire, Bill Deutscher, Trevor Elliott, Michele Gallagher, Terry Harris, Lori Kahn, Patty Kaija, Tanya Laeger, Dr. Isaac Pope, Allyn Roe, Chris Sampson, Joanne Schwartz, Lindsey Senter, Annalee Tobey, Wanda Thompson, Hunter Weeks, Ed Wegele, Andrew Hunziker, Rob LaFontaine, Brenda McGuigan, Vicky Muething and Colt Cage.

1. Welcome and Introduction of Guests. Allyn Roe welcomed Brenda McGuigan from Vernetta Smith Chehalis Library, Andrew Hunziker from the City of Chehalis and Rob LaFontaine from Twin Transit.

2. Partner Updates & News

Downtown Bathroom Remodel Update: Andrew Hunziker, City of Chehalis Facilities Manager, gave an update on the downtown bathroom remodel project. They have some fixtures, partitions and toilets to be installed and they will be closing off an exterior portion for added City storage. They expect it to be completed by June 1, 2017. The hours of operation for the bathrooms will be Monday-Saturday, 9 am-4 pm. Annalee said that the exterior will be painted beige and she has a call out to local artists to paint a colorful collage or mural on the exterior of the building.

Ride the Willapa: Larissa Hyatt was unable to attend the meeting. Lindsey Senter from the Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce said that this event will be June 24-25. The bike ride is from Chehalis to Pe Ell with camping available on a first come first serve basis at Rainbow Falls Campground and the Pe Ell Football field. Registration for this event is online either on the Chamber's website <http://chamberway.com/> or at <http://ridethewillapa.com/>. There will be festival activities at both camping sites. Registrants to date include folks from out of town as well as from out of state.

Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce: Lindsey Senter reminded everyone that the Home & Garden Show is coming up May 19-21, 2017 at the NW Sports Hub in Centralia. She said there will be a large BBQ given away as a door prize at this event. Lindsey brought current Chamber Directories and distributed them to members in attendance. The Chamber is looking for ideas to add a festival atmosphere to the Chehalis Penny Playground overnight stop on the Seattle to Portland (STP) Bike event July 15-16. They will be having a band, food, and a beer garden. It was suggested they provide a flyer with a list of local events happening during that time. It was also suggested that a trolley or a shuttle would be available for a transportation option for the riders. Dr. Pope suggested that next year before the event registration, the Chamber provide the Cascade Bicycle Club with a list of Chehalis events/venues that could be distributed to all STP participants with they register for the STP. Lindsey also reminded everyone of the Hub City Car Show in Centralia on August 26. Dr. Pope asked if the Chamber has a list of available venue spaces in Chehalis for events. Annalee shared that the Lewis County Visitors Guide has a local venue listing page.

Twin Transit: Rob LaFontaine, General Manager for Twin Transit gave an update on the 40-year-old transit system. The system has been working as a flag style transit system. They are adding fixed bus stops on fixed routes, National Avenue, Downtown Chehalis and will be adding a stop at the Jackson Villas Apartment Complex that will include a bathroom facility. Rob discussed the plans to move the downtown Centralia bus stop and facilities. They have purchased a lot and two buildings, the Carpenters building to host the Twin Transit offices and the J&L building that is scheduled to be demolished this summer and he is working on grant applications to support the project. Twin Transit is looking at expanding the boundaries and the service area for this system. There may be a ballot measure in the future as Twin Transit is a tax funded government agency. They are currently funded at 0.2% of sales tax.

City of Chehalis: Jill Anderson, City Manager, said thank you to Andrew and the City Facilities Department for all the work they are doing for the City as well as for CCRT. She reminded everyone that the pool opens for the season on June 17. They are showing triple the number of users with the new pool facility. They are working to have more availability for local citizens and to have a safe atmosphere for users of the pool with trained and educated staff on site. There will be concerts in the park this year on July 21, July 28 and August 4. There will be a 5K Run/walk "Leap the Levee" event at the Chehalis Airport on June 17. All proceeds will go to support the Discover! Children's Museum Project in Chehalis. You can preregister at the

Chehalis-Centralia Airport Office located at 900 NW Airport Rd or call 360-748-1230. Entry forms for mail in entry are available in the City Manager's office at City Hall. Jill shared that there is flood work, a pump house project and runway work happening at the airport.

Executive Director: Annalee Tobey shared that she and Michele Gallagher attended the RevitalizeWA Conference in Ellensburg in April. This is Washington's annual statewide conference focused on historic preservation and economic revitalization. They attended many sessions and came back with a lot of ideas for CCRT. One idea is a "Possibilities Tour". This tour is an empty buildings tour with the building owners, city officials, neighboring business owners and possible tenants or owners. Another idea is youth involvement with CCRT. Annalee had a conversation with Ed Rothlin, Chehalis SD Superintendent, regarding a possible job shadow program with downtown businesses or having a high school student, representative at the CCRT meetings. Another idea was for more art displays downtown-add art to functional features like garbage or recycle bins. Annalee shared that she and Michelle spoke at the Kiwanis Club meeting 2 weeks ago. The Fourth Friday Event in May will include "The Sandlot" movie at the Chehalis Theatre, beer & wine tasting, live entertainment and specials being offered by downtown businesses. The Flood Valley Brewing is hosting a "Floodstock" event on May 20 that will include 3 bands, and a BBQ. This event is being held to raise money for a required Fire Suppression System for the business. Annalee thanked the City of Chehalis, Andrew Hunziker and the Facilities Department for the help in installing the banners (23 more banners to be added) and the incredibly quick installation of the bike racks downtown-less than one week from delivery to installation.

3. Committee Reports

Design-Michele Gallagher thanked Andrew Hunziker for the bike racks installation. She also shared that Shawn King owner of Iron King had the bike racks completed ahead of schedule. Regarding the storefront window display, the Chehalis Foundation is displaying K-3rd grade art work. The Chehalis Farmers Market will have a display set up next week. They are still accepting donations for the "Beautify Chehalis" project for plants for the islands and tree pots downtown. They are working on collecting historical photos for the new banners. Current project ideas include: art for recycle containers, a Call for Artists for the bathroom mural project and looking for an architect for a large Boistfort Street project. The next committee meeting is Thursday, June 1 at 9am at the CCRT Office at 60 NW Boistfort St.

Organization-No report this month.

Economic Restructuring-Trevor Elliott thanked Andrew Hunziker and the City Facility Department staff for the work they are doing to assist CCRT with their projects. The Façade program will accept applications for matching grants up to \$2,500 per business location. They are continuing to work on the possibility of co-working spaces in downtown Chehalis. He shared that this alternative for small businesses is an international, national, regional and local trend for entrepreneurs. This is an opportunity that CCRT can offer small businesses. This committee meets the last Friday of the month at noon at Sweet Inspirations. The next meeting is Friday, May 26 at noon.

Promotion-Lori Kahn has been delivering the Experience Chehalis Visitor Guides and the Lewis County Visitor Guides. She is gathering feedback from businesses that receive this information. A local coffee shop location handed out all that she delivered in one week and another location had a large number of last year's flyers that did not get handed out to citizens. Stacy Davis, LC PUD, asked to have flyers to give to new PUD customers. She also asked for a link to put on their website for the digital version of the LC Visitors Guide. Annalee to provide to Stacy. Lori said they are also working with title companies to hand out to new homeowners in the area. ChehalisFest is coming to Downtown Chehalis on July 29. As this is an unfunded project this year, they are looking for sponsors to help with the marketing for this event-to get the word out into the community and surrounding cities. There are \$500 and \$200 sponsorships available for local businesses and organizations. This will include posters, counter cards, radio live remote, social media campaign, links on the Experience Chehalis e-newsletter, included in press release, and link/logo

featured on CCRT webpage. The committee has completed the work on the "Why Chehalis" brochure. A request for bid has gone out for this project.

4. Other Updates/Announcements/Good of the Order

- Patty Kaija suggested looking into smart phone apps for a city walking guide. The San Juan Islands has a phone app that can be used for ideas. Colt from the Danny Brown Agency suggested a way to connect the phone to the Historic Downtown Walking Tour on the City's web page with a single link.
- Wanda Thompson of the Chehalis–Centralia Railroad and Museum shared that there are still a few spots available on the Mother's Day Dinner Train on Sunday, May 14. The new coach should arrive in approximately 6 weeks.
- Joanne Schwartz of the Chehalis Foundation shared that the Chehalis Foundation is partnering with the City of Chehalis to renovate the Penny Playground at Recreation Park. There will be future fundraising opportunities for this project. She asked that everyone go to see the new Trans Alta Commons building at Centralia College. She spoke of the great partnership between the Chehalis School District, Centralia College and the Chehalis Foundation. She also shared that Centralia has created the Centralia Community Foundation. This is similar to the Chehalis Foundation organization.
- Vicky Meulhing, new manager for the Chehalis Farmer's Market, shared the new email and website information: info@chehalisfarmersmarket.com and www.chehalisfarmersmarket.com. Opening day is Tuesday, June 6 on Boistfort Street from 11 am-4 pm. They are adding a pilot program of Friday evenings at the market. From July 14-August 25 the Market will be open on Friday's from 4 pm – 7 pm. They are continuing the kids club and the street musicians this year. There was a suggestion to work with Jerry of M & K Market to host beer and wine tasting events on Fridays. Also, it was suggested that the vendors accept the "Square" for credit/debit payments with a smart phone. Vicky shared that the current guidelines are for use of tokens by Vendors but she will bring this up to the Board for the future market seasons.
- Annalee shared that Michelle Gallagher's daughter, Ashlynn Gallagher, has been selected to participate in the 2017 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, May 14-19, in Los Angeles. She was selected after winning first place in the South Sound Regional Science and Engineering Fair in Tacoma on March 25. Ashlynn is a junior at W.F. West High School in Chehalis She is involved in the STEM program in the molecular genetics program. Congratulations and good luck to Ashlynn Gallagher!

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Next Meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. City Hall Basement Meeting Room

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

