

Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT)

March 10, 2017

Meeting Notes

Due to David Hartz's absence, the meeting was chaired by Allyn Roe. He called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following were present: John Abe, Jill Anderson, Susan Delaire, Bill Deutscher, Chip Duncan, Trevor Elliott, Michele Gallagher, Terry Harris, Flossie Heymann, Chris Judd, Lori Kahn, Tanya Laeger, Larry McGee, Mitch Moberg, Randy Mueller, Rachael Reiton, Joanne Schwartz, Lindsey Senter, Andy Skinner, Annalee Tobey, Wanda Thompson, Jason Vatne, Chris Sampson, and Matt Matayoshi.

1. Welcome and Introduction of Guests. Allyn Roe welcomed Rachael Reiton from the Chehalis Community Farmers Market, Matt Matayoshi from Lewis Economic Development Council, and Chris Sampson from the Chehalis Boys & Girls Club.

2. Partner Updates & News

Community Farmers Market: Rachael Reiton shared that the Chehalis Community Farmers Market will be on Tuesday's from 11 am-4 pm beginning on June 6 through Halloween Tuesday, October 31, 2017. They are working on possibly adding a second day of the week, Friday evenings, in July and August. They are currently asking for vendor applications for this year's market. The applications are on their website and the website domain name is changed from CommunityFarmersMarket.org to ChehalisFarmersMarket.com. The new email address is info@chehalisfarmersmarket.com. Rachael asked that Annalee send her an email with the CCRT member email information as she has lost all the old email contacts due to the domain name changes. The annual market meeting will be held on March 23 at 6:00 pm at the WSU Extension office to announce the vendor selections for this year. Rachael advised that the sales numbers were up in 2016. She also advised that she has resigned her position as Market Manager. The position has been advertised and they will be hiring a new Market Manager in 2017. Rachael will be in a mentoring role with the new manager and she will continue to support the CCRT organization and will be attending future meetings.

Lewis County EDC: Matt Matayoshi shared that they are currently working to recruit three major companies to the area. He spoke of one of these companies, a bio-med company looking at the Port of Chehalis. This is a medical process company that prepares cadaver parts for medical use. This company would have 200-300 employees with an average salary of \$50,000 plus benefits. They are competing with locations in NC and TX. Lewis County EDC is working with Centralia College on a training program, and the Governor's office, Lewis County and the WA State Department of Commerce to create financial incentives and tax exemptions for this organization as incentive to bring the business here. Lewis County EDC is doing a Workforce Grant Training Study with Centralia College for a possible new program, and they are working on a rural infrastructure grant in the Winlock area regarding water and sewer engineering options. Matt reminded everyone of the IACC Conference, October 24-26, 2017 in Wenatchee, WA. The Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping Washington communities and tribes identify and obtain resources they need to develop, improve, and maintain infrastructure. This annual statewide conference is where state and federal programs assisting local governments and tribes with infrastructure needs convene to share information about their programs with local government representatives.

Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce: Lindsey Senter reminded everyone of the Spring Fling scheduled for April 15, 2017 and the spring garage sale held at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds. The Chamber will have posters for this event. Also, the Home & Garden show is coming up May 19-21, 2017. They are currently accepting vendor applications for this upcoming event.

Executive Director: Annalee said thank you to everyone. The new committee chairs are doing a great job juggling multiple projects and there is an exciting momentum being felt by all. The new office on Boistfort Street is now open with part time hours. She stated that she is normally in the office most days Monday-Friday. Now that CCRT is more visible, she has been more accessible working with new businesses, answering questions and assisting businesses with City processes for their business. As Executive Director, she will be updating the City of Chehalis City Council and the Port of Chehalis Board of Directors with quarterly reports from CCRT. She thanked the City of Chehalis for their generous donation of \$50,000. The ChehalisFest planning meeting is upcoming, Mitch Moberg is the lead on the project, and Annalee will notify all when the

meeting is to be held. Annalee thanked the press; LewisTalk, Business to Business and the Chronicle, for spotlighting CCRT local projects like the Downtown Banners, and the Fourth Friday of the month event for downtown businesses. Annalee thanked City employees Deborah King, for her help with the bike racks permit process, and Andrew Hunziker, for his help with the design and remodeling process for the downtown restrooms. Annalee advised that she will be tracking dollars invested by downtown business throughout the year and will report on these amounts on the Annual Main Street Report. She has a Main Street Core map and is tracking investment dollars by the City, the County and local businesses to show the continuing growth of downtown Chehalis.

City of Chehalis: City Manager, Jill Anderson, stated that voters officially approved the 2017 Transportation Benefit District 0.2% sales tax increase and the election was certified on February 24, 2017. The City Council will be scheduling workshops with the community to address the priority projects to be completed with these funds in the future. Council has approved the 30% Design Recreation Park project that will give the City detailed costs for the project moving forward. The Sister City Delegation from Inasa, Japan will arrive on March 23 until March 28. The schedule of activities includes tours of arts and crafts in the Twin Cities, Chehalis School tours, and two days of exploring the area with their host families. The Administrative staff has been working on 3 collective bargaining groups in the city, working on City facility projects needed, and working with CCRT with the downtown restroom project. Councilor Terry Harris commented that the TBD sales tax dollars will be accumulated for one-one and a half years to have funds for larger projects and to allow for the possibility for matching funds for grant opportunities. He spoke of Senator Braun's Senate bill, SSB 5827, regarding how cities distribute lodging tax monies. This bill is asking to change the definition of "tourist" and would restrict funding requiring specific heads in beds number counts. This would affect the City's Annual Wedding Show event. This event would no longer qualify for funds if this bill passes. Terry is working to voice no changes in the lodging tax funding. AWC notified the cities about this Senate Bill and Mayor Dawes sent a letter to Senator Braun voicing his concerns. Councilor Harris advised that Representative Ed Orcutt does not support this bill.

3. Committee Reports

Design-Michele Gallagher spoke of the "Beautify Chehalis" project to find sponsors for purchasing plants for the islands and tree pots downtown. She said they are also collecting donations to support a local non-profit organization. This year this is the Boys & Girls Club of Chehalis. The bicycle racks project is moving forward. The racks will be green with the City of Chehalis logo in the center circle and a cutout of a bicycle image. Michelle passed around the design to the members present. There will be 8-10 bike racks completed. The funding will be through business sponsorship and monies budgeted by CCRT for this project. These bike racks will be gifted to the City of Chehalis. The locations will be determined and the City will install the racks downtown. Also, the Almost Home project will continue their storefront window display through April. The next Design Committee meeting will be on April 6 at 9:00 a.m.

Organization-Allyn Roe, Vice President, is reporting this month. They are working on the new bylaw changes and adjusting these bylaws. They are also completing budgets for CCRT projects.

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 and he asked that Annalee provide this list to local realtors. The \$10,000 Facade Program is being planned using examples from programs in Yakima, Kennewick and Renton. They are working on the criteria for applications at an upcoming meeting on March 17 at Umpqua Bank. Trevor also said they are researching if there is a need in the community for co-working spaces available for short term office space.

Promotion-Lori Kahn, said that the Chehalis Visitor Guides have gone to the printers, The Chronicle won the bid and the turnaround is one week. The Lewis County Guides will go to the printer soon. These guides are similar to last year. They had a brain storming session this week regarding the "Why Chehalis" brochures. They are targeting businesses by capturing the emotional experience and texture of the City in words and with pictures. They are also promoting

downtown with the infrastructure and monies invested in downtown. The Chehalis Wedding Show sold out all vendor spots for the Wedding Show held on February 18. They had a waiting list for vendors hoping to be able to participate. At 10:00 a.m., when the show opened, there was a line out of the door for people waiting to get into the show. The 2017 Wedding Show was a success with more vendors and a larger number of attendees.

4. Other Updates/Announcements/Good of the Order

- Chehalis Boys & Girls Club: Director, Chris Sampson, reported that the Chehalis Boys & Girls club building is currently under construction and is scheduled to be completed the end of July or beginning of August. There will be a Grand Opening in August. They will begin operations with the 2017-2018 school year. With the existing budget, they will have 200 children in the program, grades K-12, with a limited number of kindergarten students. They expect to serve 150 students per day. There is a fundraiser scheduled for March 25, 2017 at the Pacific Athletic Center (PAC) in Chehalis. Chris has flyers and tickets available for their first annual Brews, Brats and Wine "First Pitch" event that is coming up March 25th from 4-10 p.m. Tickets are also being sold on their website: <http://www.bqcchehalis.org/first-annual-brews-brats-and-wine-first-pitch-event/>. Chris also mentioned that there will be a breakfast event in September to report to the community.
- Annalee reported the bus stop downtown will be moved and Twin Transit is working with the City of Chehalis regarding the permit for the move. The City of Chehalis, Facilities Manager Andrew Hunziker is working with the contractors regarding the interior painting, stainless steel fixture installation and closing the existing shelter area. This is to be completed before Farmers Market begins in June.
- The first "Fourth Friday" Downtown Chehalis was on Friday, February 24. Thank you to Mitch Moberg, Twin Cities Trading Post for hosting the movie, The Princess Bride at the Chehalis Theatre. These day and evening activities, events, concerts, movies, shopping and food/drink specials will happen at downtown businesses on the Fourth Friday of each month.
- Mitch Moberg, Twin Cities Trading Post, handed out flyers for the upcoming "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" movie event on March 24 at 8:00 p.m. at the Chehalis Theatre. Pre-sale tickets available at Twin Cities Trading Post.
- Wanda Thompson advised that the Chehalis-Centralia Train & Museum Polar Express (December 2016) had received multiple comments from visitors from Durango, TX stating their love and support of such a "Hometown" event.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Next Meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. City Hall Basement Meeting Room

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

