

Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT)
October 13, 2017
Meeting Notes
Special Meeting Location: Jester Auto Museum & Event Center
321 Hamilton RD, Chehalis, WA 98532

Randy Mueller called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. The following were present: Jill Anderson, Marcy Anholt, Stacy Davis, Bill Deutscher, Trevor Elliott, Michele Gallagher, Terry Harris, Christine Hoffman, Chris Judd, Tanya Laeger, Larry McGee, Mitch Moberg, Joanne Schwartz, Lindsey Senter, Andy Skinner, Annalee Tobey, Wanda Thompson, Lindy Waring, Hunter Weeks, and Brian Wilkins.

1. Welcome and Introduction of Guests. Randy asked members to go around the table and introduce themselves to the group. He thanked Randy and Rogette Hubbert for hosting the CCRT Membership meeting in their new facility, Jester Auto Museum and Event Center. Ralph gave a brief history on the 6,000-square foot facility and how it came about with their partner Don Jester. Rogette Hubbert, event coordinator, can be reached on Facebook or by email rogghubbert@hotmail.com, or telephone 360-269-2789 to reserve the venue for upcoming events. They can host 300 in the large front space and they have a private "man cave" for smaller board or conference meetings.

2. Partner Updates & News

Reliable Enterprises: Andy Skinner shared information and a flyer with the vision, mission and purpose for a new project at Reliable Enterprises: Anderson House, a group care facility. With a soft opening set for January 2018, they are looking for sponsors and volunteers to assist in getting this foster care transitional home up and running. There is a large lack of foster homes in Washington State and this home will be for children ages 6-13 years old needing emergent housing for 30-60 days in order to find placement in an appropriate foster home. This home, that can house 7-12 kids, will provide short term care for children who are removed from their home of origin by Child Protective Services or Law Enforcement. Reliable Enterprises, a social service nonprofit company, started in 1977. They are celebrating their 40th anniversary this year and will be hosting a Centralia-Chehalis Chamber After Hours event next Thursday, October 19 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Reliable Enterprises employs over 120 people and supports 11 programs including Head Start, a Birth – 3 Development Center, and an eleven county-wide court ordered visitation program. Chip Duncan, as an adoptive foster parent, shared his support for the Anderson House project and said that he is thankful they are providing this service to the children in need of transitional foster care in the first 30-60 days away from their homes. If you would like to help with the Anderson House project, please call Andy Skinner or Debbie Hood at 360-736-9558, extension 119.

Chehalis-Centralia RR & Museum: Wanda Thompson shared information on the Pumpkin Train and the Polar Express Train rides. The Pumpkin Train rides will be October 28 and 29. The Polar Express Train rides begin the day after Thanksgiving with 3 rides per weekend for 4 weeks. They are looking for volunteers to be Santa, to help on the train ride or to work behind the scenes. They need 4 volunteers per trip to serve hot chocolate, sing Christmas carols and read the story. Tickets for these rides are available online at <http://steamtrainride.com/ride/>. They are bringing a new 102-year-old coach from Moses Lake. This is an upscale coach car with a dining area, a galley and 4 sleeping rooms. Randy Mueller mentioned an article about this coach, written for the Columba Basin Herald, is available with on the Port of Chehalis Facebook page.

Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce: Lindsey Senter shared upcoming events at the Chamber. The Trick or Treat Transit is being held on October 31. Twin Transit is donating drivers and buses for this event. There is a new location this year: the Twin City Town Center (by Walmart.) The After Hours event on the 19th of October will be held at Reliable Enterprises in Centralia and there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 25 at Precision Printing. They are looking for businesses to donate items (300) for the Black Friday Bags. These bags will be given away on Wednesday, November 22 at 5:00 p.m. until all gone. They are accepting donation until Sunday, November 19th and welcome any volunteers that would like to help filling the bags. The Santa Parade theme this year is "White Christmas." The parade will be held at 11:00 a.m. on December 2 and Frank Mason is the Parade Master of Ceremonies. Registration for parade participants will be available online in November. Lindsey advised that December 1 will be her last day working for The Chamber. Her plans are to stay at home with her daughter but will remain connected with CCRT after a short leave from activities.

Executive Director: Annalee Tobey shared that she and Trevor Elliott along with Scott White, Executive Director for the Centralia CDA organization, spoke to the LC EDC at their luncheon on Thursday, October 12. On Wednesday, October 11, she attended the City of Chehalis LTAC meeting to request 2018 Tourism funds. CCRT requested \$43,600 this year which includes approximately \$20,000 to produce the Lewis County Visitors Guide. The LTAC recommendations will go to City Council on Monday, October 23, 2017 at the City Council Meeting. Annalee will be attending the quarterly Main Street leadership conference in Quincy, WA Monday and Tuesday of next week. They are hosting this event in a community that is not a Main Street community. The main focus is on the "Power of Habit." She gave a big shout out to thank the CCRT volunteers, the committee chairs, the committees, the members and the City of Chehalis for everything that they do to support this organization. She shared that Don Schmidt and his staff at the City of Chehalis have already painted the crosswalks and curbs downtown and it makes a huge difference there.

3. Committee Reports

Economic Restructuring- Trevor Elliott spoke to the Lewis County EDC about the things that CCRT as a group are doing to improve the downtown area: the bathroom remodel and mural, the "Choose Chehalis, Where Business and Lifestyle Meet" brochures, bringing high speed fiber internet to the downtown area with Rainier Connect, and the Façade program. There are 5 façade improvements in progress or completed. The San Juan Apartments and the Palace Building have been painted. CCRT will be hosting an Opportunity Tour on October 18 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. The tour will begin in front of the CCRT office located at 60 NW Boistfort Street. Participants will tour available office spaces and buildings in the downtown area with realtors, property management staff, building owners, businesses interested in moving to downtown spaces and interested community residents. On Monday, thanks to a Distressed County Funds Grant (.09 Funds) from the Lewis County BOCC, the partnership between the Port of Chehalis and CCRT will open a coworking space in downtown Chehalis. The building purchase closed on Monday and a soft launch is scheduled for January 2018. The next committee meeting is October 27, noon at Sweet Inspirations.

Design-Michele Gallagher shared the bathroom mural project, awarded to local artist Emily von Flotow, is almost completed. The second mural may need to wait until spring of 2018 due to the weather and the ability of the paint to dry/cure. The United Way of Lewis County and Reliable Enterprises have created window displays for the vacant downtown windows. The committee is looking for new projects for 2018. Please email Michele at gallagher565@comcast.net with any future project ideas for the Design Committee. The next committee meeting is Thursday, November 2, at 9 am at the CCRT office.

Organization-Randy shared they now have the keys for the coworking space building located at 478 North Market Blvd that is set to launch in January of 2018. The Port and CCRT will enter into a contracted agreement for partnership in the coworking space 2-year project. The CCRT Board members will be asking businesses for B&O Tax credit donations for 2018. This year the process has changed and businesses will have the first three months of 2018 to make their B&O Tax donations. Washington State has 32 Main Street Programs that share a pool of funds. CCRT will be able to collect donations in the amount of \$133,333 in 2018. If total/per city contributions are not collected by a Main Street Program city by April 1, 2018, the remaining Main Street Program cities will be able to apply for these remaining additional dollars through additional B&O tax donations. Joanne Schwartz wished to thank Randy Mueller for his leadership as the Port of Chehalis, Executive Director, and the Port Commissioners for stepping up to help downtown Chehalis and the CCRT organization. Randy invited everyone to attend the Port of Chehalis Board meetings on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 11:00 a.m.

Promotion- Tanya Laeger shared they will be working on the marketing plan for the coworking space project. The Chehalis downtown business relocation guide, "Where Business and Lifestyle Meet" brochures are nearly complete. The first draft of 50 brochures will be available for the Opportunity Tours scheduled for next week. Then a 2nd printing with the final revisions will be completed. The website research and development continues. The next meeting is Wednesday, October 18 at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall.

4. Other Updates/Announcements/Good of the Order

Andy Skinner of Reliable Enterprises asked if anyone is aware of a homeless veteran in need of housing. They have a 35-unit facility with spaces allocated for homeless veterans.

The Veterans Day Parade is being held in Chehalis this year (previously this has been held in Toledo, WA) on Saturday, November 11 at 1:00 p.m. The Veterans Memorial Museum is celebrating their 20th Anniversary by hosting the parade and also having a celebration BBQ dinner & music event at the VMM starting at 4:00 p.m. after the parade. The cost for the 20th anniversary celebration is \$15.

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

Next Meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. City Hall Basement Meeting Room
Meeting Notes respectfully submitted by Denny Peace, City Manager's Administrative Assistant.