

Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT)

January 10, 2014

Meeting Notes

Chair David Hartz called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with the following members present: Corine Aiken, Del Ames, Julie Balmelli-Powe, Tom Bradley, Bill Deutscher, Frank DeVaul, Trevor Elliott, Caryn Foley, Bob Geddes, Terry Harris, Merlin MacReynold, Julie McDonald Zander, Allyn Roe, Bill Schulte, Gail Shaw, Andy Skinner, Shawn Thomas, and Annalee Tobey. Others in attendance included Bret Bryan, Steam Train; Christina Crea, DeVaul Publishing, Cameron Dean; Dave Muller, Port of Chehalis; Amber Roal, Centralia-Chehalis Chamber; and Brian Watson, The Chronicle.

1. **Welcome and Introduction of Guests**. David welcomed Amber Roal with the Chamber, and Dave Muller, Interim Director for the Port of Chehalis.

2. **Communications**.

a. David provided everyone with a copy of some information put together by Andy Skinner about Lewis County (attached).

3. **Project Updates**.

a. **Discover! Children's Museum**. The pilot closed on December 29. 220 visitors enjoyed free admission and got to see draft drawings of the new facility. In total, Discover! saw 15,218 paid admissions. The advisory board is shooting for a reopening date of December 2014, and is meeting February 3 to begin the planning process for the permanent museum. Some of the things being considered include an 18,000 sq. ft. facility with expanded activities for older children, a preschool, an outdoor space, and Head Start or In-Tot programs.

Corine thanked the CCRT and the community for its support of the pilot. She thanked the Lewis County PUD for providing free storage space for exhibits that will be used in the permanent museum. Last, but not least, she thanked Marilyn Chintella, Director; Chelsea Neumann, Floor Staff/Party Coordinator; Amber Richards, Volunteer Coordinator; and all the volunteers who contributed so much to the success of the pilot project.

Amber asked if the board would consider having the museum open on Mondays. She stated they get a lot of traffic at the chamber with people looking for things to do on Mondays.

b. **Marketing Committee**. Annalee reported that an application for "Main Street" designation was submitted to the state and we are awaiting approval. Facebook ads were utilized in November and December to boost our fan base. Over the two-month period, our "likes" increased from around 1,000 to just over 3,000. These ads will continue. The marketing committee met earlier this week to set 2014 planning goals, and work is being finalized on the 2014 event rack card.

c. **Western Washington Railroad (WWR) and Steam Train**. Bill D. stated that WWR renewed their five-year lease with Tacoma Rail where 182 cars are currently being stored. They plan to begin moving wood for McFarlane Cascade. Regarding the steam train, Bill D. reported that 2,100 people rode the Polar Express train. He also noted that the strategic planning process is going well.

Bret added that repairs have begun on Engine 15 and there is less damage than originally thought, which should put the project under budget. They plan to video the repair process for the future since it's only done once every several years and Bret asked if anyone knew a good resource to do the video. Amber suggested contacting the high school or college.

Annalee noted that Stan Foster of PARC has been a good resource in the strategic planning process.

d. **PARC Resources**. Stan Foster was in town this past Wednesday and Thursday and will return on February 12 and 13. While here, he attended the committee recently formed to talk about the Chehalis Theatre and also the meeting on updating the steam train's strategic plan.

e. **PUD Park**. Budget numbers are being put together. Markthor and Jan are leading this effort in conjunction with Bill G and the PUD. David shared that Markthor is currently undergoing some health issues. Around the holidays he had a coconut-size tumor removed from his armpit/chest area. The tumor was successfully removed, but was malignant. He is awaiting pathology tests. Let's keep Markthor in our thoughts and prayers.

f. **Chehalis Theatre**. A committee of the CCRT was formed during the December planning meeting to explore options for the theatre. The committee has met twice to brainstorm potential uses and actually toured the facility yesterday. The facility is in decent shape. Stan Foster is lending a hand and provided a rough estimate of \$500,000 for acquisition and restoration, plus a \$50,000 contingency fund. Shawn, who is leading the committee, noted that the project needs to be sustainable and we don't want to be competitive with other nearby theatres. We need to look at something that someone else isn't already doing. Julie added that this project was a great opportunity to bring people into the downtown.

g. **Holiday Decorations.** Terry stated the committee is meeting soon to develop a five-year plan to present to the Chehalis Foundation and to request funding for this year's decorations.

4. **Business Comings & Goings.** ReclinerLand is closed.

5. **Good of the Order**

a. Bill S. stated that acquisition of part of the Tacoma Rail line is still in progress. He reminded everyone that a couple years ago there was discussion about constructing a parking garage in the downtown area. The idea was put on hold due to funding and property acquisition, but discussions are reopening.

b. Trevor indicated that Young Professionals Lewis County is trying to expand their email base. Please let him know if you know of someone who might be interested in YPLC.

c. Brian stated that they have completed the relocation of Sign Pro to The Chronicle facility. It is hoped that this move will provide better efficiency to customers.

d. David thanked Christina for her coverage of Renaissance-related articles in Business to Business.

e. Upcoming Events:

- Chamber banquet – January 17. Reservations due today.
- Home & Garden Show – March 21-23. Vendor applications due February 7.

The meeting concluded at 9:30 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Caryn Foley, City Manager's Administrative Assistant.

Next meeting is Friday, February 14, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT)

February 14, 2014

Meeting Notes

Chair David Hartz called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with the following members present: Corine Aiken, Julie Balmelli-Powe, Tom Bradley, Cameron Dean, Bill Deutscher, Frank DeVaul, Caryn Foley, Terry Harris, Dick Larman, Merlin MacReynold, Julie McDonald Zander, Larry McGee, Jan Nontell, Dennis Osborn, Allyn Roe, Rick Sahlin, Bill Schulte, Gail Shaw, Andy Skinner, Shawn Thomas, Annalee Tobey, and Brian Watson. Others in attendance included Bret Bryan, Steam Train.

1. **Welcome and Introduction of Guests.** David announced that Cameron and Brian have agreed to become official members of the CCRT. He also congratulated Rick Sahlin on his appointment to Public Works Director.

2. **Project Updates.**

a. **Marketing Committee.** The marketing committee: plans to create a business survey to address various topics; is creating a work plan as part of the Main Street application; and is seeking quotes for the printing of the visitor brochure and event rack card, and also bids for the wayfinding signs.

b. **PUD Park.** Due to Markthor's health issues, this project is on the back burner for now. Please continue to keep Markthor in your thoughts and prayers.

c. **Steam Train.** The 2014 schedule is being developed; the Easter Train will have three runs on April 19; work continues on the strategic plan; work days are scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Saturdays – all are welcome; and the engine maintenance project is ongoing.

d. **Chehalis Theatre.** The committee has met several times, including a tour, to explore options for the theatre. The current figures for restoration are now significantly higher than first estimated. As a result the committee has changed its name to the Downtown Revitalization Group and will focus on looking at potential uses of other buildings in the downtown district.

e. **Local Business Development/Community Outreach.** Dick and Alicia have met to talk about the development of a program for county-wide use. They expect to bring back a proposal in about a month.

f. **Discover! Children's Museum.** Larry reviewed the PowerPoint presentation that Discover! committee members will be making to various service clubs, educational groups, government agencies, etc. to educate the community on the results of the pilot project and the plans for moving forward.

3. **Business Comings & Goings.** Endeavors has moved from their Market Boulevard location to Yard Birds.

The meeting concluded at 9:40 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Caryn Foley, City Manager's Administrative Assistant.

Next meeting is Friday, March 14, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT)

March 14, 2014

Meeting Notes

Chair David Hartz called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with the following members present: Corine Aiken, Tom Bradley, Amber Roal (for Alicia Bull), Cameron Dean, Bill Deutscher, Trevor Elliott, Caryn Foley, Bob Geddes, Terry Harris, Patty Kaija, Larry McGee, Dennis Osborn, Rick Sahlin, Bill Schulte, Andy Skinner, and Brian Watson. Others in attendance included Bret Bryan, Steam Train; Mat Griesse; and Rachael Reiton, Farmers Market.

1. **Welcome and Introduction of Guests.** David welcomed Mat Griesse. Mat owns Greasythings located at 432 NW Front Way. He provides 2D and 3D design; retail/exhibit design and installation; and DJ services for weddings/events.

2. **Communications.** Larry provided an update on the Tacoma Rail project. He, Commissioner Schulte and Mayor Dawes are currently making presentations to various groups to explain the purpose of the interlocal agreement (ILA) between Lewis County, Chehalis, and the City of Tacoma for the potential purchase of a portion of Tacoma Rail line between Maytown and Chehalis. The ILA establishes a three-year period for the development of a business plan, to conduct due diligence, and to seek federal grants for the possible purchase. If the business plan does not show that it can be profitable, or if grant funding is not available, then the county and city will withdraw.

Public Announcement from our favorite librarian – today is National Pi Day.

3. Project Updates.

a. **Discover! Children's Museum.** Plans for a permanent location are moving forward; however, the time frame for opening has been pushed back to 2016 since the Legislature made no capital funding allocations this session. The \$250,000 that had been hoped for would have been used for site work at the current location. Stan with PARC is currently looking for funding sources for this need. Discover! is beginning the process to gain its own non-profit status.

b. **Chehalis Avenue.** Rick reported that the project is currently out to bid with a bid opening date of March 27.

c. **Marketing Committee.** The marketing committee: is finalizing the work plan as part of the Main Street application; is seeking quotes for the printing of the visitor brochure and event rack card, and also bids for the wayfinding signs; and will begin plans for a "Shop Local" campaign.

d. **PUD Park.** David reported at the last meeting that this project was on the back burner due Markthor's health issues. Markthor informed David this is not so! It's a good distraction for him as he goes through treatment. He's finalizing the design work and drafting a budget. Once complete, they will meet with Bob Geddes to get his approval.

e. **Steam Train.** Easter Train rides are April 19; work continues on the strategic plan; and work days take place on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays.

Bill reported that Western Washington Railroad (WWR) currently replaced 150 ties, and will get another 100 replaced this weekend. They will soon be running to the Curtis pole yard, and also completed brush work in needed areas.

f. **Holiday Decorations.** The committee is meeting regularly and hopes to have a proposal to present to The Chehalis Foundation in May,

g. **Downtown Plantings/Hanging Baskets.** The hanging baskets are being planted with petunias, including six on Chehalis Avenue this year. We hope to get sponsors for the islands, tree pots, and hanging baskets as has been done the past two years. We will again be including an opportunity for individuals/businesses to make a donation to a local non-profit, which is the Gail & Carolynn Shaw Aquatic Center project.

h. **Farmers Market.** Rachael stated the Farmers Market will run June 10 to October 28 every Tuesday from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. They are still in the process of choosing a poster. They are still accepting vendor applications and are hoping for 21 vendors. They are working with the health department to have prepared food vendors, which really draws people. Their annual fundraiser is set for May 23.

i. **Downtown Revitalization Group (DRG).** The DRG is making plans to tour various empty buildings downtown. Stan Foster will join the group.

4. **Business Comings & Goings.** Petals Design and Living Gifts opened at 444 N. Market. Garbe's has new owners and a new name – Sidelines Sports Bar.

5. **Good of the Order.**

a. Andy is looking for people to help plan a couple museum events, so please let him know if you would like be on the team for the Claquato Pie Social on July 13 and the Pancake Breakfast set for July 26.

b. Bob stated that PUD has a new website, which includes on-line bill pay; Lora Provolt was recently hired as the new Human Resources Manager; and estimates are being sought to renovate the reception area.

The meeting concluded at 9:45 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Caryn Foley, City Manager's Administrative Assistant.

Next meeting is Friday, April 11, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT)

April 11, 2014

Meeting Notes

Chair David Hartz called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with the following members present: Corine Aiken, Alicia Bull, Bill Deutscher, Caryn Foley, Christine Fossett, Terry Harris, Patty Kaija, Merlin MacReynold, Dave Muller, Dr. Isaac Pope, Allyn Roe, Rick Sahlin, Bill Schulte, Andy Skinner, Shawn Thomas, Annalee Tobey, and Brian Watson. Others in attendance included Lynne Beshaw, Bret Bryan, Cristina Crea, Bob Holland, Matt Matayoshi, Richel Perkins, and Rachael Reiton.

1. **Welcome and Introduction of Guests.** David welcomed: Lynne Bashaw, who just opened Petals Design and Living Gifts at 444 North Market; Matt Matayoshi with the Lewis County EDC; and Richel Perkins from Lakeside Industries. Matt noted that the EDC hopes to announce one or two new businesses within the next month.

2. **Communications.** David reported that Gail Shaw was admitted to the hospital Wednesday afternoon, but was feeling better as of last night. Gail wanted to let everyone know that he's "under repair." He still wanted to talk shop and would like to see regular dinners organized to build friendships. We're thinking of you, Gail!

Public Announcement from our favorite librarian – today is International "Louie Louie" Day.

3. Project Updates.

a. Discover! Children's Museum:

- Official board of directors and officers elected.
- State non-profit status and federal 501(c)3 status processes underway.
- Continue to attend community events to keep Discover! in the public eye.
- State representatives and major donors want to see Discover! partner with an education group, so we have met with staff from Reliable Enterprises to discuss what a possible partnership could look like.
- Working with Stan Foster (PARC) to narrow which foundations we should seek funding from.
- Some site design and engineering work is taking place.

Dr. Pope understood the museum would include an outdoor area. He would like to see the creation of a sensory park for children that deal with sensory issues, and passed along some information for the board to look at.

b. **Chehalis Avenue.** The first round of bids came in significantly higher than the engineer's estimate, so the project was rebid and six bids were opened on March 27. The low bid was \$519,104, which still exceeds the grant funding. They are working with the engineer to see where costs can be reduced and then take an award recommendation to the council by the end of this month. If awarded, the project would most likely begin in May and be completed by the end of July. If the city doesn't award the project this go-round, the funding will be lost.

c. Marketing Committee:

- Finalizing the work plan as part of the Main Street application.
- Restarting Facebook ads, which have been very successful.
- Quotes for printing the visitor brochure and event rack card were awarded to The Silver Agency.
- Monthly e-newsletter continues. Sign up on the city website or contact Annalee to start receiving it.

d. **PUD Park.** Markthor continues to do what he can on the project while undergoing cancer treatment. Thinking of you, Markthor!

e. **Downtown Revitalization Group (DRG).** The DRG plans to tour all the vacant, historic buildings downtown. Stan Foster with PARC, along with David Pinyerd and Paul Falsetto, historic preservation consultants, will accompany the group.

f. Steam Train:

- Approved the strategic plan.
- Work days continue on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays.
- Easter Train rides are April 19, at 11am, 1pm, and 3pm.
- Mother's Day brunch and dinner trains are May 11.
- Repair work continues on Engine #15.

g. **Holiday Decorations.** Thanks to all committee members. The multi-year plan presentation and request for funding will be presented at the May 20 Chehalis Foundation meeting.

h. **Downtown Plantings/Hanging Baskets**. The hanging baskets are planted and growing. The high school FFA will do the planting, with assistance from the city so the irrigation lines are not damaged. There may also be a group that is willing to help with weeding after school lets out for the summer.

i. **Local Business Development/Community Outreach**. Alicia reported that she, Dick Larman, and Matt Matayoshi have met on this topic. They would like to put together a small presentation/course to take to cities around Lewis County. They would like everyone's input, so please contact Alicia with your thoughts.

4. **Good of the Order**.

a. For the Almost Home Project, Patty is attending a pet expo in Seattle, and has also been providing guidance to Oso. Patty was sought out due to her work following the 2007 flood.

b. The book, Tales from Saturday's Child: A Collection of Columns by Gordon Aadland is now available at The Chronicle and Book 'n Brush. Gordon's column appeared weekly in The Chronicle for almost 12 years.

c. Chamber:

- Home & Garden Show went well and had a good turnout.
- Spring Fling is April 19 from noon to 2:00 pm. A coloring page and advertisement is going out through several local schools. Thanks to ARTrails and Twin Cities Trading Post for all their work in putting on this event.
- Lots of new businesses are joining the chamber.
- If you're not receiving the weekly Chamber Scoop contact the chamber.
- The Official Lewis County Visitors Guide is in production.

d. Tacoma Rail. By the end of next Friday they hope to: record the interlocal agreement between Lewis County, Chehalis, and the City of Tacoma; establish an escrow account; and submit a grant application to the EDA to complete a feasibility study. Commissioner Schulte, Larry McGee, and Mayor Dennis Dawes have been making presentations on this topic and he reported that the County Commissioners, and Centralia and Chehalis city councils, all unanimously supported the plan to study whether purchasing the rail line is feasible or not. Merlin added his thanks to The Chronicle's for their recent articles supporting the project.

e. Port of Chehalis. The Port received 34 applications for the executive director position, and they are in the process of interviewing seven candidates. They will then narrow the candidates and enlist a community panel to interview the finalists and make a recommendation to the commissioners. They plan to have a new director on board by June. In other news, the Port hopes to make an announcement about a new manufacturing facility that would bring 30 to 40 jobs to the community.

f. Farmers Market:

- 10th season opens June 10
- Market is full, but can squeeze a few more; they also have space for non-profits
- A list of vendors is on the Facebook site – Like us!
- Bite Night is May 16 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Santa Lucia Coffee Roasters in Centralia

g. The Centralia-Chehalis Soroptimist and Centralia-Chehalis Kiwanis Clubs are sponsoring a talent show on April 26 at the Fox Theatre. The show begins at 6:00 pm.

The meeting concluded at 9:35 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Caryn Foley, City Manager's Administrative Assistant.

Next meeting is Friday, May 9, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT)

May 9, 2014

Meeting Notes

Chair David Hartz called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. with the following members present: Corine Aiken, Del Ames, Julie Balmelli-Powe, Tom Bradley, Bret Bryan, Cameron Dean, Bill Deutscher, Frank DeVaul, Caryn Foley, Christine Fossett, Terry Harris, Larry McGee, Dennis Osborn, Rachael Reiton, Allyn Roe, Rick Sahlin, Bill Schulte, Andy Skinner, Shawn Thomas, and Annalee Tobey. Others in attendance included Lynne Bashaw, Michele Gallagher, Buck Hubbert, Richel Perkins, and Amber Roal.

1. **Welcome and Introduction of Guests.** Larry introduced Michele Gallagher, a student at Centralia College. He explained that Allyn thought it would be a good idea to have a third party with no connection to Discover! to look at whether or not moving forward with a permanent museum was feasible. Michele completed such a report which covered all aspects of the pilot project. This will be a valuable tool to provide to potential donors.

2. **Communications.** David announced that Bret and Rachael are now both official members of the CCRT. Thank you!

Public announcements from our favorite librarian – May 3 was the 140th running of the Kentucky Derby; May 6 was the anniversary of Babe Ruth's first home run, which was against the Yankees, and today is National Moscato Day.

3. **Project Updates.**

a. **Discover! Children's Museum.** The board continues its work on a budget, non-profit formation, public presentations, and community event participation. A three-prong approach is being pursued to finance the museum, which includes equal funding from the state, private foundations, and the community. The current estimate for the project is \$3 million. Working with PARC, 20 letters of inquiry will soon be going out to prospective foundations.

Amber asked if a location has been selected. Allyn reported the location is on Louisiana Avenue between Walmart and Home Depot. Larry added the site includes green space for an outdoor area. He also noted that the location is on city property and the city has been very supportive of the project.

b. **Chehalis Avenue.** The project will go before the city council next Monday for approval. The low bidder was Titan Earthworks whose bid came in at \$519,104. If approved, Rick hopes to have the project completed by the end of August.

c. **Marketing Committee:**

- The newly updated and revised visitor brochure and event card were made available at the meeting. The committee is looking for someone to distribute these pieces. See attached "job description" and contact Caryn if you are interested or know someone who might be. You can also contact Caryn for additional brochures and cards.
- The updated wayfinding signs were shown. The six existing kiosks will be updated, and several signs will be made available to Chehalis hotels and various businesses. These signs are a smaller version to better accommodate businesses. If you would like a sign for your business, please call Caryn.
- In addition, work continues to finalize the work plan as part of the Main Street application.

d. **Steam Train:**

- Easter rides were successful despite the weather.
- The Mother's Day brunch and dinner trains are sold out. Regular excursion rides are still available.
- Repair work continues on Engine #15.
- Track and trestle work has been completed and inspected.
- May 24 is opening day of the 2014 season.
- School Days rides begin soon.

e. **Downtown Plantings/Hanging Baskets.** Caryn distributed a flyer for sponsoring the islands, tree pots, and hanging baskets. The cost is \$50 per island/pot/basket. Like last year, any donation beyond your sponsorship will go to a local non-profit. Last year, the CCRT chose Pope's Kids Place and collected \$650. The Gail & Carolyn Shaw Aquatic Center was selected this year. Please contact Caryn with questions or to make a donation.

David noted this project is a partnership between the City, Renaissance, Kaija's, and the W.F. West FFA.

f. **Downtown Revitalization Group (DRG).** Shawn invited everyone to attend the upcoming DRG meeting May 22 at 10:00 am at Umpqua Bank. Recommended by Stan Foster from PARC, historic preservationist Dave Pinyerd and architect Paul Falsetto will be joining the meeting to discuss the vision and plans for historic buildings in downtown Chehalis, with a focus on empty buildings. A small group will be visiting six to seven buildings on Wednesday prior to the meeting.

g. **Local Business Development/Community Outreach.** No report.

4. **Business Comings & Goings.** New businesses include Lucas Creek Coffee Co. and Bottoms Up.

5. **Good of the Order.**

a. Andy announced that the barber shop exhibit at the Historical Museum will be dedicated to Harry Shields on May 16 at 4:00 p.m. Harry was the husband of Margaret Shields, a long-time (37 years) volunteer at the museum. Most of the exhibit pieces came from Harry's barber shop.

b. Larry announced that Dr. Robert Frost, formerly of College of the Siskiyous, has been selected as the new President of Centralia College. Connie Smejkal will be filling Larry's position as Associate Dean of *Centralia College* Baccalaureate Programs at the end of June as his 18-month commitment comes to an end.

c. Amber stated the 2014 Lewis County Events Guide has been completed.

d. Terry noted that city staff has done an excellent job preparing the downtown flower beds for annual plantings.

e. Rachel reported the Farmers Market will begin its 10th season on June 10, Tuesdays 11:00 am – 4:00 pm through the end of October. 21 vendors have been confirmed for this year. Bite Night kicks off the season on May 16 at Santa Lucia in Centralia.

The meeting concluded at 9:30 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Caryn Foley, City Manager's Administrative Assistant.

Next meeting is Friday, June 13, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT)

June 13, 2014

Meeting Notes

Chair David Hartz called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. with the following members present: Corine Aiken, Julie Balmelli-Powe, Tom Bradley, Bret Bryan, Alicia Bull, Cameron Dean, Bill Deutscher, Frank DeVaul, Trevor Elliott, Caryn Foley, Christine Fossett, Bob Geddes, Terry Harris, Patty Kaija, Dick Larman, Merlin MacReynold, Julie McDonald Zander, Dennis Osborn, Allyn Roe, Dave Muller, Rick Sahlin, Andy Skinner, Shawn Thomas, and Annalee Tobey. Others in attendance included Lynne Bashaw, Cristina Crea, and Michele Gallagher.

1. **Welcome and Introduction of Guests.** David welcomed all to the meeting. He stated that everyone was aware of Gail's passing on June 6. He was truly a great man and will be dearly missed by all.

The founder's edition of "*A History of the Chehalis Industrial Commission*" is now available at Book 'n Brush. The cost is \$100 and includes the condensed version released last year. All proceeds go to the Renaissance. The books were written by Julie McDonald Zander who spent hours and hours with Gail as he recalled the birth of the Industrial Commission.

Tom announced that before Gail's passing, \$60,000 was transferred to the Renaissance to be used equally over three years. We will use it wisely, Gail!

2. **Communications.** Public announcement(s) from our favorite librarian. Today is Friday the 13th. The fear of Friday the 13th is called "paraskevidekatriaphobia," a word derived from the Greek words *Paraskevi* (Friday) and *dekatreis* (thirteen), attached to *phobia* (fear). There is also a full moon day, such a rare occurrence that it won't happen again until 2049.

3. **Project Updates.**

a. **Discover! Children's Museum.** The board continues to meet and recently adopted the tagline, "Learning Through Play" to emphasize the board's top priority of early childhood education.

b. **Chehalis Avenue.** An informational meeting was held last night for those individuals and businesses that may be impacted by the project. The project begins tomorrow and without any major details, is expected to be completed by mid-August.

c. **Marketing Committee.** We have been accepted into the Main Street Program and will be meeting with the director of the program to talk about how the Renaissance can take advantage of the B&O Tax Credit Program.

d. **Steam Train.** Regular excursions are running; the Father's Day dinner train is full, but regular rides are still available; and they are waiting for the engagement letter/quote for the financial audit.

e. **Decorations Committee.** Decorations work and storage is being done in a hangar at the airport. A presentation and funding request will be made at next month's Chehalis Foundation meeting.

f. **Downtown Plantings/Hanging Baskets.** Thanks to the WF West FFA students for getting most of the islands and pots planted. The baskets are up and look beautiful. There are still four pots to be planted, along with the planter boxes that front the library.

g. **Downtown Revitalization Group (DRG).** Historic preservation consultants were here in May to tour several buildings and we should be receiving their report soon. Committee members are contacting select theaters that were profiled in the Artifacts Architectural Consulting's 2008 "Historic Theaters Statewide Survey and Physical Needs Assessment" to see what we can learn from them. The report was done for the Washington State legislature. The next DRG meeting is June 18 at 9:00 am at Book 'n Brush.

h. **Local Business Development/Community Outreach.** Dick and Alicia have met to discuss how to get this project going.

4. **Good of the Order.**

a. Alicia – The Official Visitor Guide has been distributed locally and through Certified Rack. They are busy planning several summer events.

b. Andy – The Historical Museum recently received a total of \$149,000 to the endowment fund from long-time, Chehalis resident June Clare, who passed away last year. In recognition of Clare's donation, the museum has renamed one of its exhibit rooms after her.

The meeting concluded at 9:40 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Caryn Foley, City Manager's Administrative Assistant.

Next meeting is Friday, July 11, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT)

July 11, 2014

Meeting Notes

Chair David Hartz called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with the following members present: Corine Aiken, Tom Bradley, Bret Bryan, Cameron Dean, Bill Deutscher, Caryn Foley, Christine Fossett, Terry Harris, Merlin MacReynold, Larry McGee, Jan Nontell, Rachael Reiton, Allyn Roe, Bill Schulte, Andy Skinner, Shawn Thomas, Annalee Tobey, and Brian Watson. Others in attendance included Buck Hubbert, Michele Gallagher, Steve Richert, and Patrick Wiltzius.

1. **Welcome and Introduction of Guests.** David welcomed Patrick Wiltzius, who was filling in for Rick Sahlin, and Steve Richert.

2. **Communications.** Public announcement(s) from our favorite librarian:

- July 1, 1848 – First photographs used in a newspaper report in Paris
- July 2, 1937 – Radio contact was lost with Amelia Earhart
- July 3 – August 11 are known as the Dog Days of Summer – the hottest days of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. The name is connected with the rising of the star, Sirius (the Dog Star). In ancient times, a brown dog was sacrificed at the beginning of the day to appease the star.
- July 11, 1960 – Harper Lee's "*To Kill a Mockingbird*" was first published
- July 30, 1975 – Jimmy Hoffa was last seen alive. He was officially declared dead on July 30, 1982.

3. **Project Updates.**

a. **Discover! Children's Museum.**

- The boards of Discover! and Reliable Enterprises met recently to discuss a potential partnership when the new Discover! is constructed
- Continue to have a presence at local community events
- A capital campaign is expected to begin in October

b. **Chehalis Avenue.** The project is expected to be completed around mid-August.

c. **Marketing Committee.**

- Looking into photography sources to create a data base of photos
- Running Facebook ads for Planes, Trains & Automobiles Festival
- Working on developing a brochure to approach businesses about the B&O Tax Credit through the Main Street Program

d. **Steam Train.**

- Using GroupOn – ridership is up
- Kids Day is July 12
- Senior Day is July 13
- A few seats are left on this weekend's dinner train

Western Washington Railroad.

- Transloading poles from the Curtis yard – first load going to Canada
- First load of tractors coming in from Texas to be transloaded to Dupont

e. **Decorations Committee.** A presentation and funding request will be made at Tuesday's Chehalis Foundation meeting.

f. **Downtown Plantings/Hanging Baskets.** All 34 islands/tree pots were sponsored, along with 11 of the 25 hanging baskets. You can still make a donation to sponsor a basket or contribute to the pool project.

g. **Downtown Revitalization Group (DRG).** Committee members are contacting select theaters that were profiled in the Artifacts Architectural Consulting's 2008 "Historic Theaters Statewide Survey and Physical Needs Assessment" to see what we can learn from them. The report was done for the Washington State legislature. Scott White with the Fox Theatre is assisting and is very supportive of what we're doing. The next DRG meeting is July 24 at 1:00 pm at Umpqua Bank.

4. **Business Comings & Goings.**

- New: Jitter Beanz Espresso
- Closed: Central TV, Yarn & Things, DevilFish
- Name Change: Bargain Mania is now Dina's Great Finds

5. **Good of the Order.**

a. Jan distributed copies of the 2014 ARTrails Studio Tour guide. The Centralia Downtown Association (CDA) met last night and is very interested in working together with the CCRT.

b. As we all know, Markthor is dealing with cancer. Below is information for those that would like to help:

By mail: Markthor MacFarlane, 169 Hyppa Road East, Rochester, WA 98579

Through GoFundMe: <http://www.gofundme.com/8lhw3g>. Donations deposited directly into Mark and Selma's bank account every Monday.

c. Christine – Dick's Brewing has made a special brew in honor of The Chronicle's 125th anniversary called "Reporter Red Ale." You can check it out tonight at Dick's from 3:00 to 7:30. Santa Lucia is also blending a special coffee brew.

d. Visiting Nurses gold tournament is next Friday at Riverside.

e. D.B. Cooper Festival is August 2 at the fairgrounds. Come visit the Sertoma beer garden.

f. **Farmers Market.**

- 18% increase in sales on opening day!
- Poster contest for 2015 is underway
- Seeking grant funding through "Local Foods, Local Places." Need letters of support.
- Senior Day is August 19

g. Andy – Thank you to Larry McGee for being the master of ceremonies at the Pie Social event. A cleaning party is being held at noon this Sunday prior to the Planes, Trains & Automobiles Festival.

The meeting concluded at 9:40 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Caryn Foley, City Manager's Administrative Assistant.

Next meeting is Friday, August 8, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT)

August 8, 2014

Meeting Notes

Chair David Hartz called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with the following members present: Corine Aiken, Tom Bradley, Bret Bryan, Bill Deutscher, Trevor Elliott, Caryn Foley, Christine Fossett, Terry Harris, Patty Kaija, Larry McGee, Randy Mueller, Jan Nontell, Andy Skinner, Shawn Thomas, Annalee Tobey, Brian Watson, and Patrick Wiltzius.

1. **Welcome and Introduction of Guests.** David welcomed Marcy Anholt, now representing ARTrails (Jan Nontell is now representing the Centralia Downtown Association), Joanne Schwartz, Centralia College, and Dr. Robert Frost, new President of Centralia College.

2. **Project Updates.**

a. **Discover! Children's Museum.** Letters of support are being requested from various individuals and organizations that will accompany grant requests. A fundraising campaign will begin in October to begin raising money for construction of a permanent Discover! Children's Museum. It is estimated that \$4 million is needed, of which \$1 million will come from in-kind services.

b. **Chehalis Avenue.** The project is expected to be completed August 15.

c. **Marketing Committee.**

- Downtown beautification sponsorship was success
- Looking into photography sources to create a data base of photos
- Experience Chehalis Facebook fans are just over 5,000; receiving great comments
- Experience Chehalis e-newsletter distribution is up to 1,000
- Work continues on the Main Street Program, specifically the B&O Tax Credit Program

d. **Steam Train.**

- Regular dinner and murder mystery dinner trains are selling out
- Using GroupOn is going well
- Polar Express tickets go on sale early September
- Track work continues
- Doing an RFP for a web designer

Western Washington Railroad.

- Transloading poles from the Curtis yard
- First load of tractors from Texas was transloaded and sent to Dupont

e. **Downtown Revitalization Group (DRG).** Committee members are contacting select theaters that were profiled in the Artifacts Architectural Consulting's 2008 "Historic Theaters Statewide Survey and Physical Needs Assessment" to see what we can learn from them. The next DRG meeting is August 28 at 9:00 am at Umpqua Bank.

f. **Decorations Committee.** A presentation and funding request was made at a recent Chehalis Foundation meeting. Terry reported that the Foundation graciously approved \$17,000 to the Renaissance.

3. **Special Report.** Connie Bode with the Chehalis Foundation joined the meeting to talk about the Gail & Carolyn Shaw Aquatic Center opening on August 15. Hours of operation are 11:30 to 4:30 and 5:00 to 7:30. Cost is \$2.50 for children and \$3 for adults. There will be no swim lessons this year. Joanne Schwartz added that a \$200,000 project turned into a \$2 million + project, and it would not have been possible without Connie's leadership. A donor reception will be held on August 24 from 5:30 to 7:30.

4. **Business Comings & Goings.**

- On the move: OverAbundance has moved from their location on Market to Pacific Avenue

5. **Good of the Order.**

a. Andy – The Historical Museum is in the midst of their membership drive.

The meeting concluded at 9:30 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Caryn Foley, City Manager's Administrative Assistant.

Next meeting is Friday, September 12, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT)
September 12, 2014
Meeting Notes

Meeting cancelled.

Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT)

October 10, 2014

Meeting Notes

Chair David Hartz called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with the following members present: Del Ames, Julie Balmelli-Powe, Tom Bradley, Cameron Dean, Bill Deutscher, Trevor Elliott, Caryn Foley, Christine Fossett, Bob Geddes, Terry Harris, Merlin MacReynold, Julie McDonald-Zander, Larry McGee, Mitch Moberg, Randy Mueller, Jan Nontell, Dennis Osborn, Rachael Reiton, Alyn Roe, Rick Sahlin, Bill Schulte, Andy Skinner, Annalee Tobey, and Brian Watson. Others present: Stan Foster, PARC; and Kari Winsor, Blue Earth Farms.

1. **Welcome and Introduction of Guests.** David welcomed back Stan Foster with PARC (Public Affairs Research Consultants). Stan is working with the Renaissance on a couple projects, including the steam train and the Discover! Children's Museum. Stan stated it was important to him to honor Gail's support of the Renaissance.

2. **Project Updates.**

a **Marketing Committee.**

- Collecting photographs to create a database of photos to be used by all
- Ordered new wayfinding signs
- Visitor brochures being distributed
- Experience Chehalis Facebook fans are just over 5,700; posting about five times per week
- Received \$10,000 in lodging tax funds for 2015
- Historic Walking Tour printing completed; this edition is dedicated to Gail
- David Hartz and Larry McGee attending the Main Street Conference next week

b. **Discover! Children's Museum.** As reported in previous meetings, \$3 million will be sought from three funding sources – state, foundations, and community. Six major foundations have been identified. Lowell Wood has been retained to lead the fundraising campaign. There is lots of work to be done. Larry thanked the city for its support.

c. **Steam Train.**

- The 21 Polar Express trains sold out in three weeks
- Seating is still available on the Santa rides
- Pumpkin train rides are October 25 and 26
- CCRM financial audit was "clean with some recommendations; Stan is meeting with Bill and Wanda Thompson today about implementing the audit requirements
- The completed strategic plan update will be presented to the Chehalis city council and county commissioners

d. **Western Washington Railroad.**

- Dismantling project is about 60% complete; this project will create additional storage space
- WWR projects have put 220 heads-in-beds

e. **Decorations Committee.** Terry unveiled plans for an 84'L x 10'H Christmas train that will be located in the grassy area across from the aquatics center. A work party did the primary painting and Karen Betts will paint all the detail work (Karen paints holiday scenes in several businesses around town). In addition, city hall, the aquatics center, V.R. Lee Building, and Hess Kitchen will be decorated with white lights. Terry thanked the Chehalis Foundation for their support. He stated that the Foundation asked that we find other resources toward this project, and he noted that Home Depot gave a 15% discount and waived the sales tax on the materials used for the train. Stan indicated that he may have some additional sources of funding for us.

f. **Downtown Revitalization Group (DRG).** Next month we hope to have the report from Dave Pinyerd and Paul Falsetto, the historic preservationist consultants, on the assessment of several buildings they explored. The buildings included in the report are the Chehalis Theatre, St. Helens Theater (City Farm building), St. Helens Inn, Sears Farm Store (formerly ReclinerLand), Elks Building (formerly Waldock's Hardware, and 564-572 North Market Boulevard (one building with three storefronts).

Dennis Osborn mentioned that the city recently received a grant from the Department of Historic Preservation to get the city's Historic Preservation Committee back up and functioning. They are looking for a person to complete this project. It is expected to be about 10 hours per week for about one year.

g. **Chehalis Avenue.** The project is essentially complete, with just a few minor punch list items to finish.

Caryn stated that we have a list of trees and plantings for the project and Patty is working on getting cost estimates.

4. **Business Comings & Goings.**

- New: Benny's Florist reopened
- Closed: Bottoms Up
- On the move:

5. **Good of the Order.**

a. Farmers Market – The Harvest Dinner is this Sunday beginning at 5:00 pm at the Hotel Washington. Tickets are \$35. October 28 is the last day of this season's market – come join the celebration of a great season! Rachael noted they will need a new storage space location next year.

b. City – Merlin reported the search for a new city manager is underway. Four to six candidates will be interviewed and a new city manager will be selected by the city council on November 24. Development of the 2015 budget is going on. Revenue-wise, the city is in good shape for the future. Merlin ended by acknowledging the work of the CCRT, stating it is changing the history of the city!

c. County – Bill S. stated they are awaiting word from the EDA on a grant to complete a feasibility study for purchase of a portion of Tacoma Rail line. The RFP to find a consultant to complete the study is ready to go. The local match of \$30,000 is coming from the city of Chehalis and Gail Shaw, along with the \$30,000 EDA grant to complete the study.

d. See Julie if you would like to support the Boy Scouts and their popcorn sale.

e. Historical Museum – The Historical Society is celebrating 50 years in 2015. To commemorate the anniversary, they are creating a book that will be dedicated to long-time volunteer, Margaret Shields, and will be presented during the annual meeting on November 9. Please let Andy know if you have any stories for inclusion in the book, or if you would be willing to write an endorsement.

The meeting concluded at 9:45 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Caryn Foley, City Manager's Administrative Assistant.

Next meeting is Friday, November 14, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT)
November 14, 2014
Meeting Notes

Chair David Hartz called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. with the following members present: Corine Aiken, Marcy Anholt, Tom Bradley, Bret Bryan, Alicia Bull, Bill Deutscher, Trevor Elliott, Caryn Foley, Patty Kaija, Matt Matayoshi, Larry McGee, Jan Nontell, Dennis Osborn, Andy Skinner, and Annalee Tobey. Others present: Mike Beehler, Lynne Bashaw, Marilyn Chintella, Michele Gallagher, and Steve Richert.

1. **Welcome and Introduction of Guests.** David welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Communications.** David passed around five copies of the walking tour for everyone to sign to present to the Shaw family in honor of this edition being dedicated to Gail.

a. **Public Service Announcements from Our Favorite Librarian.** Corine shared several happenings that have occurred during the month of November. A few include Lewis & Clark reaching the Pacific Ocean in 1805; Roy Rogers was born Leonard Slye in 1911; President Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963; area codes were first used; and Small Business Saturday was started in 2010

b. **Non-profit Conference Report.** Corine and Marilyn shared what they learned last month at the Non-Profit Leaders Conference for Coastal & Southwest Washington. Some of the highlights of the conference included:

- What we don't know, what we need to know, and where to go to learn
- Great introduction to the incredible resources and support network available to non-profits
- Financial and funding tips from experts
- The makeup of an efficient, effective board

3. **Project Updates.**

a. **Discover! Children's Museum.**

- Lowell Wood conducted 36 interviews
- Discover! presented at the November chamber forum
- PARC will prepare a comprehensive strategy on how to proceed
- The Murdock Trust has invited Discover! to apply for a half-million dollar grant
- A request was submitted to the state legislature for 1 million from the capital budget
- Recently learned that one-third of children entering Kindergarten in Centralia are not prepared with basic skills. Larry and Marilyn met with a group called Early Childcare and Kindergarten Collaboration chaired by Shelley Habenicht (Centralia School District) and David Roberts (Fords Prairie Principal) that provided this information.

b. **Steam Train.**

- Two additional runs were added to the Polar Express schedule, making the total runs 23. All runs are sold out, as are the Santa trains
- Volunteers are still needed for the Polar Express trains
- Some supplies have been ordered for the rebuild of Engine 15
- A special run is being held for a veterans group from Portland
- They are seeing more interested in special runs
- The update of the strategic plan and the audit are both complete, which will allow the CCRM to start looking for grants
- The turn table from the Navy is back on the table

c. **Chehalis Avenue Trees/Plantings.** Patty suggested a meeting of this committee before she orders anything. Caryn will schedule a meeting. Kaija's Christmas open house is November 21-23 featuring Old World Ornaments and fresh, locally cut trees, garland, wreathes, and more.

d. **Marketing Committee.**

- 20 new wayfinding signs are completed
- Small Corex versions will be available for businesses to purchase
- A kiosk will be erected on Chehalis Avenue
- Send your 2015 events to Caryn for inclusion in the event rack card
- A "Choose Local First" campaign is underway. This is a joint effort with the Centralia Downtown Association.
- Received \$10,000 in lodging tax funds for 2015
- Historic Walking Tour printing completed; this edition is dedicated to Gail
- David Hartz and Larry McGee attending the Main Street Conference next week

4. Good of the Order.

a. Chamber – The Santa parade posters and flyers are being distributed. The chamber is again having a toy drive in conjunction with the parade. Bring unwrapped toys to the stage on the day of the parade or drop them off at the chamber. 250 shopping survival bags are being stuffed with lots of great items. Come to the chamber on November 28 beginning at 4:00 am to get your bag! The annual banquet is January 16 and will be held at The Loft.

Patty suggested that businesses carry the parade theme when decorating for the holidays.

b. Historical Museum – The research library was dedicated to long-time volunteer, Margaret Shields at the annual historical society meeting and dinner. Evening with the Authors is December 5. Plans are also underway for a Roaring 20s New Year's Eve costume party.

c. Centralia Downtown Association – Upcoming events include the annual tree lighting ceremony on November 28, Lighted Tractor Parade at 6:00 p.m. on December 13, and the CDA annual meeting is December 29.

d. Western Washington Railroad – 80 of the 85 cars have been disassembled. This project is expected to be completed by the end of the month. It is estimated that WWR projects have put 220 heads-in-beds.

e. ARTrails – Marcy reported that they are stilling looking for a member of ARTrails to head up the storefront art project.

David invited everyone to the reception on November 17 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. to meet the three candidates for city manager.

David reminded everyone that the next CCRT meeting is our annual planning meeting where we review this year's accomplishments and select the projects we want to focus on next year. It is important to have everyone at this meeting.

The meeting concluded at 9:45 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Caryn Foley, City Manager's Administrative Assistant.

Next meeting is Friday, December 5, 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT)

December 5, 2014

Meeting Notes

Chair David Hartz called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. with the following members present: Corine Aiken, Marcy Anholt, Julie Balmelli-Powe, Tom Bradley, Bill Deutscher, Trevor Elliott, Caryn Foley, Terry Harris, Patty Kaija, Merlin MacReynold, Larry McGee, Mitch Moberg, Randy Mueller, Dennis Osborn, Dr. Isaac Pope, Rachael Reiton, Allyn Roe, Rick Sahlin, Andy Skinner, and Annalee Tobey. Others present: John Diefendorf, Malissa Edwards, Stan Foster, Michele Gallagher, Steve Richert, and Joanne Schwartz.

1. **Welcome and Introduction of Guests.** David welcomed John Diefendorf. John is doing work for the Chehalis Foundation and Centralia College.

2. **Review 2014 Accomplishments.**

Discover! Children's Museum. Official board of directors and officers elected; pursuing own federal non-profit status after receiving state non-profit status; adopted the tagline, "Education Through Play" to emphasize board's top priority of early childhood education. Plans are progressing for a permanent facility. Of the nearly \$4 million needed, \$3 million for construction and first year operation being sought equally from the state, private foundations, and the community; \$500,000 to \$750,000 will come from in-kind services. Presentations and presence at community events continue to keep Discover! in the public eye.

Chehalis Avenue. Resurfacing and beautification portion of project completed. Renaissance is committed to providing trees and plantings; estimated cost is \$8,000.

Marketing Campaign. Continued to distribute the Chehalis visitor brochure and event rack card, monthly e-newsletter; Experience Chehalis Facebook site. The Historic Walking Tour was reprinted and dedicated to our special friend and mentor, Gail Shaw. Received Main Street designation, which makes us eligible for the B&O Tax Credit Program as an additional funding source for Renaissance projects. Completed the wayfinding sign project funded by a .09 grant. Began a "Choose Local First" campaign in partnership with the Centralia Downtown Association and the Chamber. Began collection of photos for use in marketing efforts. Received \$10,000 in tourism funding for 2015 projects.

Holiday Decorations. Committee presented a multi-year plan and funding request to the Chehalis Foundation and received \$17,000 for 2014; focus was on the new aquatics center and other buildings in Recreation Park, and construction of an 84-foot train located at the 13th Street entrance into the city. Local artist, Karen Betts, hired to paint holiday scenes on city building windows.

Steam Train. A new, five-year strategic plan and financial audit were completed for the Chehalis-Centralia Railroad & Museum, which was paid by Friends. These projects will allow the CCRM to apply for grants.

Downtown Revitalization Group (DRG). The DRG was formed to look at potential uses for vacant, historic buildings in the downtown district. Historic preservation specialists conducted a tour of six buildings; awaiting the final report from the tour. Group members contacted select theaters to see what we can learn from them.

PARC Resources. Continued assistance in seeking grant funding sources for Renaissance projects.

Tacoma Rail. The CCRT, in partnership with the City and Lewis County, is working to purchase a 20-mile section of Tacoma Rail line from Maytown to Chehalis. CCRT provided \$15,000 as matching funds for a grant submitted to the EDA to complete a feasibility study.

Downtown Beautification. Individuals and businesses sponsored the planting of annuals in all 34 islands/tree pots in the 400/500 blocks of Market Boulevard, along with several hanging baskets. This project is a partnership between the CCRT, the City, Kaija's Garden & Pet, and the W.F. West High School FFA class. \$500 donated to the Shaw Aquatics Center project.

3. **2015 Key Projects.**

1. Marketing Campaign – consider intern assistance
2. Farmers Market – assist with storage space needs, expansion of space and/or hours, consider year-round retail space, agri-tourism
3. Downtown Revitalization Group (DRG) - explore Chehalis Theater options, review Pinyerd/Falsetto study, address blight storefronts, address vacant storefronts
4. Storefront Art – revitalize program
5. Dillenbaugh Creek Conservancy Park Feasibility Study – work out details of property ownership and land use, seek funding resources to complete feasibility study
6. PUD Park - finalize design, seek funding resources to complete project
7. Local Business Development - determine what businesses we are lacking (e.g., bike shops to address completion of the Lewis County Community Trails project)

8. Build Relationships and Partnerships - increase collaboration with groups like, The Chehalis Foundation, Lewis County Community Trails, Centralia College, other non-profit organizations, etc.

4. **Good of the Order.**

Historical Museum – Evening with the Authors is December 6. One of the books that will be available at the event is, “The Trials and Triumphs of the Lewis County Historical Society and Museum.” Proceeds will go the endowment fund.

Merlin acknowledged the good work of the CCRT and noted we were, “Building the Community One Project at a Time.”

Joanne thought there were several great organizations doing good work to better our community and she thought it would be a good idea to have more interaction between groups to build relationships. She was especially thinking about the CCRT and the Chehalis Foundation.

David stated that one of the things that was important to Gail was having “community” dinners, but we were never able to get them going before Gail’s passing. He thought it would be a nice tribute if we started doing dinner once in a while.

The meeting concluded at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Caryn Foley, City Manager’s Administrative Assistant.

Next meeting is Friday, January 16 (special meeting date), 8:30 a.m.