

Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT)
August 11, 2017
Meeting Notes

Allyn Roe called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. The following were present: Jill Anderson, Chelle Bonham Stacy Davis, Susan Delaire, Bill Deutscher, Trevor Elliott, Michele Gallagher, Flossie Heymann, Rainey Johnson, Patty Kaija, Dan Kay, Tanya Laeger, Jason Mattson, Mitch Moberg, Randy Mueller, Chris Sampson, Lindsey Senter, Andy Skinner, Annalee Tobey, Lilly Wall, Hunter Weeks, and Brian Wilkins.

1. Welcome and Introduction of Guests. Allyn welcomed members to the August meeting.

2. Partner Updates & News

Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce: Lindsey Senter distributed "One Lewis County" information flyers to all members. She reminded everyone of the Hub City Car Show in Centralia on August 26 from 9- 4 p.m. The Chamber membership BBQ is Sept 11, 11:30-1:00 pm at the V.R. Lee Building. This event will replace the Chamber Forum in September.

Chehalis Community Farmers Market: Chelle Bonham, the Farmer's Market Intern, distributed Harvest Dinner sponsor forms along with an information sheet on the Community Farmers Market of Chehalis. The Harvest Dinner will be held at the Creekside Event Center on October 1, 2017. They are looking for sponsors from individuals and businesses. Sponsors can purchase a single seat or a table for this fund-raising event. The levels listed include: \$2,000 and above: Platinum/3 tables +, \$1,200-\$1,999: Gold/2 tables +, \$750-\$1,199: Silver/1 table+, \$300-\$749: Bronze/4 tickets +, or a Gift Sponsor (Cash or material goods.) Sponsor forms can be completed and mailed to: Community Farmers Market c/o WSU Extension, 351 NW North ST, Chehalis, WA 98532. Chelle reminded everyone of the Friday Night Market today from 4:00-7:00 p.m. The Friday Night Market pilot program runs through August 25.

Executive Director: Annalee Tobey recently attended the Main Street Program Quarterly Leadership Conference in Camas, WA. One of the training topics at this conference was on how to talk to property managers and building owners. This has been valuable as she has been approached by local owners and property managers regarding the available downtown space list on the website and the signs for vacant building windows. Annalee presented a CCRT update to the Port of Chehalis, at the Port Commissioners meeting on July 27. She shared that CCRT is building a positive partnership with the Port of Chehalis.

3. Committee Reports

Economic Restructuring-Trevor Elliott shared that they have accepted 3 façade program applications. Each of the \$2,500 cost match has a total project cost of approximately \$25,000. The board has approved \$10,000 in additional funds for the façade program from an anonymous donation to CCRT. This brings the façade program budget to \$20,000. They are reviewing 2-3 additional applications at this time.

The committee continues to work with Brian Wilkins of Rainier Connect to bring high speed fiber optic internet service to downtown Chehalis.

They are continuing to update the downtown building inventory list on the website and are planning an "Opportunity Tour" next month to bring investors, building owners, real estate agents and buyers together for a tour of available buildings in the downtown area. There will be networking after the tour sponsored by the LC EDC.

Susan Delaire and Trevor Elliot presented a Coworking PowerPoint presentation. Trevor & Susan explained the definition of coworking, what do the spaces can look like, the trend of coworking spaces throughout the world, and the coworking spaces currently available in our neighboring cities. A coworking space would be an alternative for small businesses to share office space with benefits and services including high speed wireless internet, printer, fax and scanner access, conference meeting space, private office space, and networking opportunities. They discussed the question of "Why Coworking in Chehalis?" Chehalis is centrally located between Seattle and Portland, with easy access from I-5, the population of traveling business people continues to grow, and there is a need for mobile office space with flexibility for the workplace. The Coworking spaces will attract contractors, programmers, social networking

professionals, engineers, and sales representatives. Local businesses may also be interested in using the available conference room meeting space for staff training or sales presentations. This Coworking project is a partnership between the Port of Chehalis and CCRT as a 2-year pilot program in downtown Chehalis. The Port would purchase the building and equipment and maintain the building, CCRT would manage and promote the facility. They are continuing to work on the Project Plan Draft to include: terms of use contracts, key entry for open access or manager on-site, rates, and a marketing plan to promote the space. Randy Mueller shared the Port of Chehalis is supporting the Coworking Project for the economic health of Chehalis by job creation, bringing working professionals to downtown Chehalis. He shared that the Port has made an offer on the Schroder Law building downtown. The Port would purchase and furnish the location and CCRT will manage the facility rent free for two years. The Port plans to keep the expenses low to reduce risk. The next committee meeting is August 25, noon at Sweet Inspirations.

Design- Michele Gallagher shared that they have been working on the rehabilitation of the downtown benches, and resizing the photos from the LC Historical museum for the additional downtown banners. The banners will be ordered soon and City of Chehalis staff (as time allows) will be building the brackets for the banners. They have requested the permit from the City and will coordinate with City staff for installation. Marcy Anholt with ARTrails, is researching the possibility of art sculptures in downtown. After CCRT members voted on the submitted designs, mural #3 (with the steam train) received the most votes and will be awarded the Market Blvd Mural Project. Michelle thanked everyone for voting. The next committee meeting is Thursday, September 7, at 9 am at the CCRT office.

Organization- No report.

Promotion- Tanya Laeger said that the ChehalisFest on July 29 was a success. This all-day event had a car show (a bigger show than in past years), a pancake breakfast and hot dog lunch at the Lewis County Historical Museum, artists from Artrails, along with specials & discounts offered by downtown businesses. The attendees enjoyed music provided by the Backfire Band. Annalee shared that there could have been more seating for attendees as they lined the curbs to enjoy the music. There was a large turnout at the event and local businesses saw an increase in business. She thanked the downtown businesses for partnering with CCRT for this event. The committee continues to work on website research and development and will be working on the 2018 LTAC funds applications that are due by September 14, 2017. The next meeting is Wednesday, August 16 at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall.

4. Other Updates/Announcements/Good of the Order

Rainey Johnson with the Boys & Girls Club of Chehalis, reminded members of the Grand Opening event set for August 31 from 5:30-7:30 at the new facility (a 21+ event). They currently have 75 open spots with the next orientation/applications scheduled for August 15-17. The cost is \$25 per year. This is an afterschool program from 3-7 p.m. Children receive a snack and can choose from various activities: Homework room with tutors are available, reading room, gym, game room, art room, STEM (tech room), and food prep in the Kitchen. Transportation is provided from all Chehalis schools to the Boys & Girls Club location.

Annalee shared that the Centralia Downtown Association (CDA) Main Street Program has hired Scott White as the Executive Director. He will begin in September. She is excited to have CCRT partner with the CDA Main Street Program on future projects. Members were reminded that Andy Skinner is the VP of the CDA organization. Andy shared that the CDA has been going through board member changes and they will continue to plan events and promote downtown Centralia.

Twin Cities Trading Post celebrated 8 years in business last month. Congratulations to Mitch Moberg and his team.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

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