

Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT)

July 14, 2017

Meeting Notes

David Hartz called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. The following were present: Tom Bradley, Stacy Davis, Susan Delaire, Bill Deutscher, Michele Gallagher, Flossie Heymann, Tony Ketchum, Tanya Laeger, Larry McGee, Mitch Moberg, Chris Sampson, Lindsey Senter, Annalee Tobey, Hunter Weeks, Ed Wegele, and Brian Wilkins.

1. Welcome and Introduction of Guests. David Hartz welcomed Lindy Waring, Advertising Manager for The Chronicle, Peter Lahman and Jason Mattson, from the Lewis County Historical Museum, Rainey Johnson, Program Manager for the Boys and Girls Club of Chehalis, Chelle Bonham, Summer Intern for the Community Farmers Market, Lilly Wall, City of Chehalis Parks & Recreation Department Manager, and Dr. Bob Mohrbacher, President of Centralia College

2. Partner Updates & News

Lewis County Historical Museum: Peter Lahmann, President of the LC Historical Society Board of Directors, introduced the new Executive Director for the Museum, Mr. Jason Mattson. Jason is to begin his position at the Museum on Tuesday, July 18, 2017. He previously managed the Yardbirds vendors in Chehalis. Jason shared that he is excited to begin his new role and will be attending the monthly CCRT meetings and partnering with CCRT for future events.

City of Chehalis: Parks and Recreation Manager, Lilly Wall shared the summer activities happening in the City. Lilly has worked for the City of Chehalis for 27 years. The spring and summer recreation leagues are wrapping up and the Shaw Aquatic Center is open. The Aquatic Center is open from May until August. They are currently registering for the 3rd session of swim lessons. This year they will provide lessons to 700-800 students. Her department has hired and trained 35 high school and college aged staff to operate the Aquatic Center. She estimates the pool will service 30,000 people this summer - approximately 10,000 per month. The City has created a new program this year for pool passes only available to City of Chehalis residents. The Center has sold 180 pool passes this year. The resident pool pass gets the individuals into the Aquatic Center first (no waiting in line) for both of the daily open swim times (11:30-2:30 p.m. and 3:00-6:00 p.m.) The State regulations allow 201 people at a time in the pool. As people leave the pool, others are allowed into the pool if there are waiting lines and they are averaging 600-800 people per day. They have 6-8 lifeguard staff on duty each day. Staff is responsible for lifesaving duties, safety awareness instruction, swimming lessons, as well as keeping the facility clean and maintained. The biggest challenge has been training the young staff both the serious task of life-saving skills and how to clean and maintain the facility. Lilly is thankful to the community for partnering with the City to build this wonderful facility and considers the center a success.

The City is extending the hours of operation for the STP Riders staying at Recreation Park on July 15. They offer free showers to the riders as well as use of the pool.

The Music in the Park concerts begin on July 21st and will be held for three Fridays in July and August.

Summer activities available this year include basketball camp, tennis lessons & camp, dance camp, soccer camp, the Centralia to Chehalis Family Bike Ride, Taekwon-Do, and Kung Fu lessons.

Lilly thanked Tom Bradley for his efforts and the continued success of the City's Soccer Program.

It was suggested that perhaps the City can look at reducing the speed limit near the Shaw Aquatics Center during the open swim hours. Lilly said she will share this suggestion with City Management staff.

Chehalis Community Farmers Market: Chelle Bonham, an Intern from Evergreen College, is working with Vicki Muething at the Community Farmers Market in Chehalis this year. The Friday Night Market pilot program begins tonight, July 14 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. The Friday event will be held from July 14-August 25 (7 Fridays.) They will have demonstrations (chefs, wool, etc.), live music and wine tastings with local wineries at the M & K Market. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony today at 4:00 p.m. to celebrate the first Friday Night Farmer's Market. The Market is looking for volunteers to help with the market. Please contact Vicki Muething at 740-1295 or email her at info@chehalisfarmersmarket.com if you have ideas for the market or if you would like to volunteer. Vicki is also working with Centralia College to offer an opportunity for students to acquire community service hours.

Centralia College: Dr. Bob Mohrbacher, President of Centralia College, spoke of activities at the college. They are getting ready for the STP riders this upcoming weekend. The riders will be serviced in the new TransAlta Commons Building. They are hosting a beer garden this year for the riders in the Commons. The College departments continue to move into this new facility. Enrollment at the College has been down for the past few years. They are looking for ways to boost enrollment. They currently offer four Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degrees: Applied Management, Information Technology, Diesel Technician and Teacher Education. They may be partnering with another college to add another BAS in Allied Healthcare. They are also working with the Lewis County EDC and Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council (PacMtn) to possibly add a truck driving program. This would be a 6-8-week program. Other ideas to boost enrollment and course offerings include possible agricultural programs that include farmers markets, seller's co-ops-the business side of agriculture. Dr. Mohrbacher advised that the state funded Running Start program (high school students attend college classes to earn college credits at the same time as earning high school graduation credits) enrollment of 365 students is up compared to previous years. The College also offers "College in High School" classes that are filled at a specific school at the request of the high school. They currently offer one English course at WF West High School in Chehalis. Bob shared that if any organization is in need of student interns from Centralia College, they can contact John Martins. He shared that most of the student interns come from the Applied Management and the Information Technology departments. David Hartz shared a June 4, 2017 front-page article from the Seattle Times Newspaper "Underachieving Chehalis now aims students at higher ed" that spoke of the Chehalis School District's focus on increasing post-secondary education for their students and also, the contributions from the Chehalis Foundation supporting this goal.

Centralia-Chehalis Chamber of Commerce: Lindsey Senter reminded everyone of the Hub City Car Show in Centralia on August 26. The Chamber and volunteers are gearing up for the STP event on July 15 at Recreation Park in Chehalis. Lindsey also shared that she expecting a baby girl in December of this year.

Executive Director: Annalee Tobey shared that fiber optic internet service, through Rainier Connect, is coming to downtown. This will be a great benefit to a possible future coworking space in Downtown that is currently being researched by the economic restructuring committee. Brian, with Rainier Connect, advised that it will take an estimated 3 months to build the fiber network so it should be available sometime in October of this year. The CCRT office will be upgrading to fiber (through a generous donation from Twin City Trading Company) that will allow the use of free public wi-fi onto Boistfort Street for future events. Twin City Trading Company is also upgrading to fiber optic internet service and will have free public wi-fi on Market Street. Annalee announced she will be attending the Main Street Program quarterly leadership meeting in Camas. The Washington State Main Street Program has made changes for the 2018 budget year. The State has added 1 million dollars to the B & O Tax Incentive program increasing the shared pool of tax donations from businesses from 1.5 million to 2.5 million dollars. Businesses can use 75% of their donation as a B&O tax credit the following year. The administration of the program has also changed. Previously, donations could begin at 12:01 am on New Year's Eve until the total funds were depleted. Now donors have the first 3 months of the year to donate towards the allocated \$133,000 per Main Street Program. After April 1st, if there are remaining tax credits available, all main street programs can ask businesses to donate additional funds to their main street organization. Annalee shared that each community reports quarterly to the Washington State Main Street organization which includes the tracking of public/private investments Downtown. Chehalis shows \$275,000 in public/private downtown investments during the second quarter.

3. Committee Reports

Design-Michele Gallagher shared the storefront window display has children's artwork from the Lewis County Head Start Program-a display from Reliable Enterprises. The committee is also working with the Lewis County Historical Museum to gather photographs for the 23 new banners to be placed downtown. These should be ordered soon. Annalee issued a press release for a Call to Artists for the bathroom mural project. After they receive nine submissions, the six finalists have been asked to submit design concepts for the mural. CCRT members will receive an email asking them to vote for the one of the top 3 selected designs. The artist will be paid \$750 for the mural. Other projects being researched include: replacement benches downtown and ARTrails is researching the possibility of art sculptures in downtown. Michelle asked that CCRT Members email her at gallagher565@comcast.net any new ideas

for the Design Committee. The next committee meeting is Thursday, August 3, 2017, at 9 am at the Market Street Bakery.

Organization-David Hartz shared that the CCRT Board members attended a workshop at the Port of Chehalis offices to review the original CCRT Plan. The original consultant that worked on the plan, Tom Beckwith, was able to attend the Workshop. They discussed items that had been completed, items that are not yet complete and new ideas for Chehalis. A subcommittee of the Board is currently working on a policies and procedures manual for the CCRT.

Economic Restructuring-Susan Delaire shared that they had been awarded \$10,000 in additional funds for the façade program. The façade program has started and has 3 applications in process with 3 more in the works. These are matching grants up to \$2,500 per business location. Two of the accepted grants are for work totaling over \$20,000 each. She shared that they are continuing to work on the possibility of coworking spaces in downtown Chehalis. This would be an alternative for small businesses to share office space. The created subcommittee has begun meetings and are looking at specifics more in-depth. This may be in partnership with the Port of Chehalis. This Committee meets the last Friday of the month at noon at Sweet Inspirations. The next meeting is Friday, July 28 at noon.

Promotion- Tanya Laeger shared they continue to work on ChehalisFest coming to Downtown Chehalis on July 29. She has posters available for any members who would like one. This is an all-day event that will have a car show, a pancake breakfast and hot dog lunch at the Lewis County Historical Museum, artists from Artrails and much more. The committee has completed the work on the "Choose Chehalis" brochure (project formerly titled "Why Chehalis"). Advocate Printing was awarded the bid and they are awaiting a draft proof from the printer. They are also working on website research and development. The next meeting is Wednesday, July 19 at 9:00 a.m. at City Hall.

4. Other Updates/Announcements/Good of the Order

Changing of the guard! After 35 years, Bobbi Fenn has retired from her business at Sister's Fabric Shop. Morgan Moon, one of her former employees has purchased the business and building. The new business name is Sister's Quilt Shop. Stop in and congratulate Morgan!

Judy DeVaul and team are pleased to announce a new name: "re:Design" in now "Gifted" and is offering new and exciting gift lines. (Susan Delaire shared that per Judy DeVaul owner of Gifted, the possible new vendors listed on the agenda are not official and not for public knowledge at this time.)

Christine Hoffman from Puget Sound Energy (PSE) attended the meeting today. She is Local Outreach Co-coordinator for PSE who was able to donate \$2,000 to the CCRT Main Street Program when the original Main Street Program that was to receive their donation, was no longer a viable recipient. Thank you, PSE

Peter Lahmann thanked CCRT and local businesses for their support of the Lewis County Historical Museum and invited everyone to attend the pancake breakfast and hot dog lunch during ChehalisFest on July 29.

Chris Sampson, of the Boys & Girls Club of Chehalis, handed out invitations to the Grand Opening set for August 31 from 5:30-7:30 to tour the new Boys & Girls Club facility. This is a 21+ event.

Lindy Waring shared that they will advertise ChehalisFest on July 21 and 25 in the Chronicle Newspaper.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Next Meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. City Hall Basement Meeting Room

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