

Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT)

June 8, 2018

Meeting Notes

Randy Mueller called the meeting to order at 8:34 A.M. with the following members present: Jill Anderson, Stacy Davis, Susan DeLaire, Bill Deutscher, Chip Duncan, Trevor Elliott, Hank Epstein, Tiffany Etherton, Fred Evander, Michele Gallagher, Terry Harris, Cecilia Jimenez, Tanya Laeger, Larry McGee, Mitch Moberg, Randy Mueller, Dr. Isaac Pope, Annalee Tobey, Hunter Weeks, Ed Wegele, and Brian Wilkins

1. Welcome and Introductions of Guests

2. Partner Updates & News:

- a. Chamber of Commerce:** Cecilia Jimenez informed the group that the 'Ride the Willapa' event will be taking place on June 23rd and 24th. The Hub City car show will take place in August, sponsors for the goodie bags are still needed.
- b. City of Chehalis Strategic Plan:** City Manager Jill Anderson gave a brief overview of the city's strategic plan. She explained that the city has made great strides in completing tasks in a timely manner. She gave an update regarding the feasibility study for a 9-1-1 Dispatch Center, the upgrades to Recreation Park, and the repairs for the Fire Department. Jill informed the group that the next strategic planning session would be held on August 30, 2018 and the group will be developing the city's vision statement. Randy Mueller explained that the infrastructure of the city is critical, yet unassuming. Council members Dr. Isaac Pope and Terry Harris expressed their pleasure working with the current city manager, Jill Anderson, as well as the last city manager, Merlin McReynolds.
- c. Executive Director's Report:** Annalee Tobey informed the group that the Main Street grind and overlay project would begin soon. She explained that the project would help to remove indentations in the parking stalls. Annalee also informed the group that the Elk's building had been purchased and was being remodeled, and that a new store would be opening on July 21st called 'Totally Pawsome'. She updated the group on the Farmer's Markets, the Chehalis Coworks, the Downtown Beautification Project, and the CCRT's website. Dr. Pope expressed his wish that the money spent by the city on feasibility studies had been given to the CCRT, which provides a vehicle for implementation.

3. Committee Reports:

- a. Economic Restructuring:** Trevor Elliott expressed his excitement with the progress in the downtown area. He explained that the façade program had generated over \$100,000 worth of upgrades and renovations in one year. Jill Anderson informed the group that City Hall would receive a landscaping overhaul soon. Trevor Elliott commended Annalee Tobey for the progress shown every month.
- b. Design:** Michele Gallagher informed the group that the Art Benches have been completed and would be installed soon. After the success of the Downtown Bench Project, the Twin Cities Rotary has agreed to rehab the benches at Westside Park. The second bathroom mural in downtown will begin as soon as weather permits. Terry Harris spoke briefly regarding the plans of the Holiday Decorating Committee and encouraged interested members to attend their meetings.

- c. **Promotion:** Annalee Tobey informed the group that the website would be complete soon. Plans for ChehalisFest were briefly discussed.
 - d. **Organization:** Annalee Tobey informed the group that after the success of the B&O Tax contributions, the CCRT Board will be revisiting the budget to allocate the additional funds.
- 4. Other Updates/Announcements/Good of the Order**
- a. Dr. Isaac Pope inquired about the feasibility of creating a local improvement district between Main Street and Cascade Avenue.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 A.M. by Randy Mueller.

Next meeting is Friday, July 13th at 8:30 A.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kiley Franz, City Manager's Administrative Assistant.