

Chehalis Community Renaissance Team (CCRT)
April 12, 2019
Meeting Notes

Randy Mueller called the meeting to order at 8:31 A.M. with the following members present: Marcy Anholt, Andrea Culletto, Susan DeLaire, Chip Duncan, Shane Duncan, Trevor Elliott, Michael Ervin, Terry Harris, Tamara Hayes, Christine Hoffman, Bobbi Jackson, Patty Kaija, Jerry Lord, Erik Martin, Jason Matteson, Mitch Moberg, Brittany Morris, Randy Mueller, Brandon Rakes, Diane Robell, Nicole Sampson, Pam Simpson, Tim Saylor, Lindsey Senter, Annalee Tobey, Ed Wegele, Brian Wilkins, Casey Winters, and Jacki Winters

1. Welcome and Introductions of Guests

2. Partner Updates & News:

- a. **Southwest Washington Fairgrounds:** Tamara Hayes informed the group that 2019 marks the 110th anniversary of the Southwest Washington Fair. There will be a window display contest to celebrate the anniversary. Grants for repairs to the grounds, the grandstands, the water system, and other miscellaneous repairs are being submitted to the state.
- b. **Chehalis Foundation/State Street Business District:** Tim Saylor explained that he appreciated the work that the CCRT does around the town. The businesses on State Avenue have been meeting to discuss what they can do to promote their businesses; discussion ensued regarding expanding the downtown boundaries. Tim Saylor also explained that the Chehalis Foundation was working on fundraising for Recreation Park and Penny Playground. He asked that anyone interested in donating or helping in the fundraising efforts contact him or the Chehalis Foundation.
- c. **Executive Director's Report:** Annalee Tobey informed the group that many board members had attended the National Main Street Conference in Seattle and had many exciting and positive things to say about the experience. She explained that the B&O Tax donations were now closed and was excited to announce that the CCRT had raised \$122k of the \$133k limit. Annalee Tobey thanked the City of Chehalis Finance Director, Chun Saul, for her help pledging the necessary funds at 12:04 A.M. on the first available day.

3. Committee Reports:

- a. **Promotion:** Lindsey Senter informed the group that the promotions committee will be meeting twice a month until ChehalisFest. The Promotions Committee is also researching ways to promote the businesses in the downtown area and was excited to work with the Sate Avenue group in the future.
- b. **Economic Restructuring:** Trevor Elliott thanked those that had contributed to the B&O Tax program. He explained that these donations helped to fund the façade and micro-grant programs, as well as many others. Nicole Sampson invited everyone to attend the Downtown Business Academy and provided vouchers for the next class. She thanked TwinStar Credit Union for sponsoring the lunches for these classes.
- c. **Design:** Mitch Moberg explained that the National Main Street Conference helped to enforce the idea that great design projects create a wonderful first impression for a

town. Patty Kaija explained that the fairgrounds are working to quell the yellowjacket population before this year's fair.

- d. **Organization:** Randy Mueller explained that the State Avenue group has prompted the discussion of expanding the downtown boundaries. He also explained that the Chehalis Coworks pilot project would be ending at the end of the year and the future of the Coworks is being discussed.

4. Other Updates/Announcements/Good of the Order

- a. Michaelyn Erickson of the Chehalis Community Farmers Market explained that 2019 will be the 15th year on Boistfort Street. She explained that many vendors have already applied this year and the last Tuesday of each month will have a wellness theme.
- b. Randy Mueller explained that the Port of Chehalis met with architects regarding the feasibility study for R.E. Bennett and Cascade Elementary Schools. He asked that anyone interested in the properties to watch for a public meeting in May.
- c. Brandon Rakes informed the group that the Leap the Levee 5k run/walk will take place on June 15th at 9:00 A.M. and is benefitting the Discover! Children's Museum. He thanked the Port of Chehalis for their donation and expressed his desire for additional partners for this event.
- d. Ed Wegele asked the group to mark their calendars for September 21st. He did not give any additional information.
- e. Brandon Rakes added that the Coalition for Safety and Cleanliness was in the process of being created and asked that anyone interested contact him. The coalition will focus on keeping business properties in the airport clean and protected. The State Avenue and downtown businesses expressed interest in the project.
- f. Shane Wood informed the group that April 24th will be the Boys and Girls Club's Most Important Meal of the Year benefit breakfast.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 A.M. by Randy Mueller.

Next meeting is Friday, May 10th at 8:30 A.M.

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